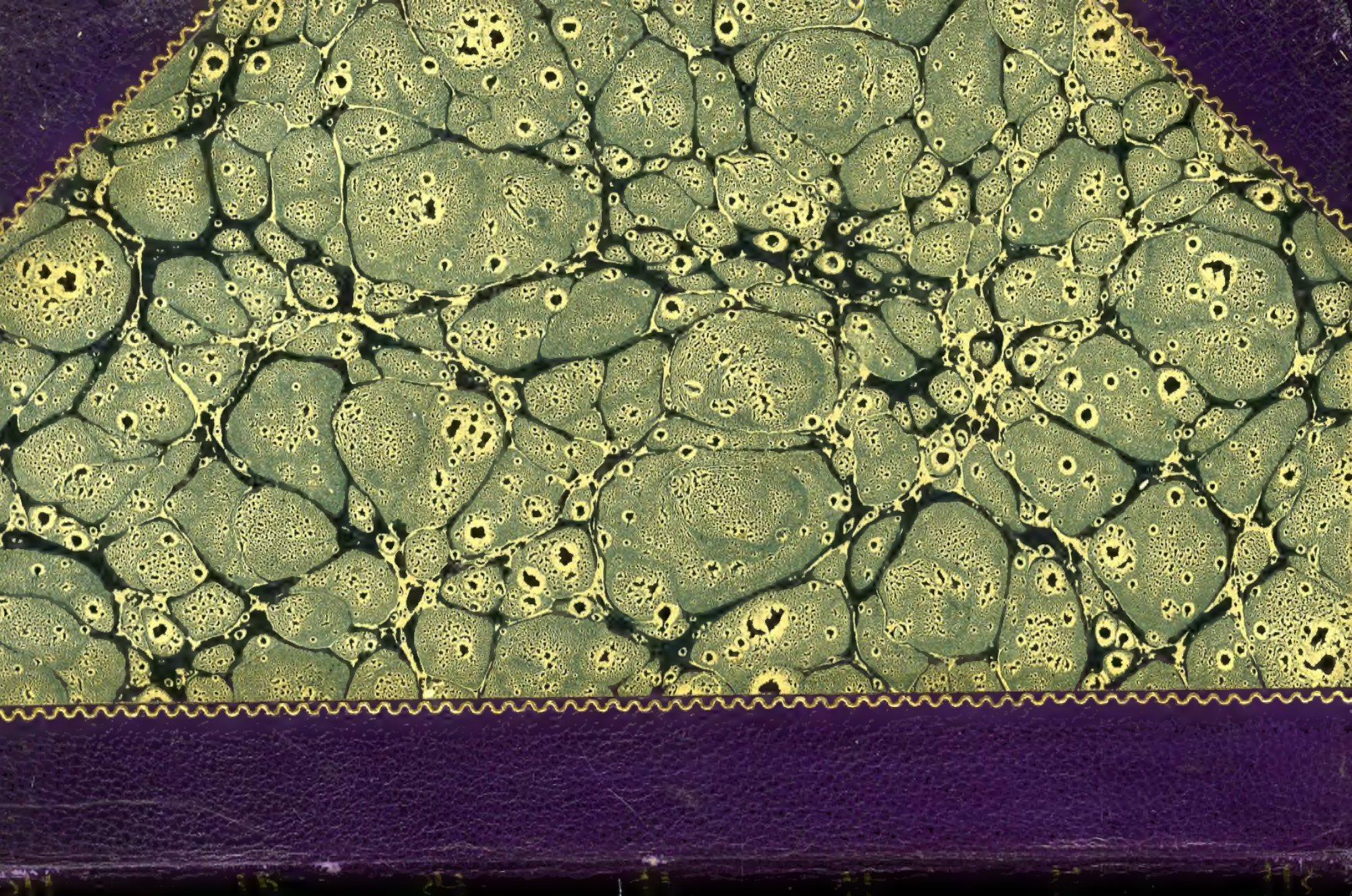

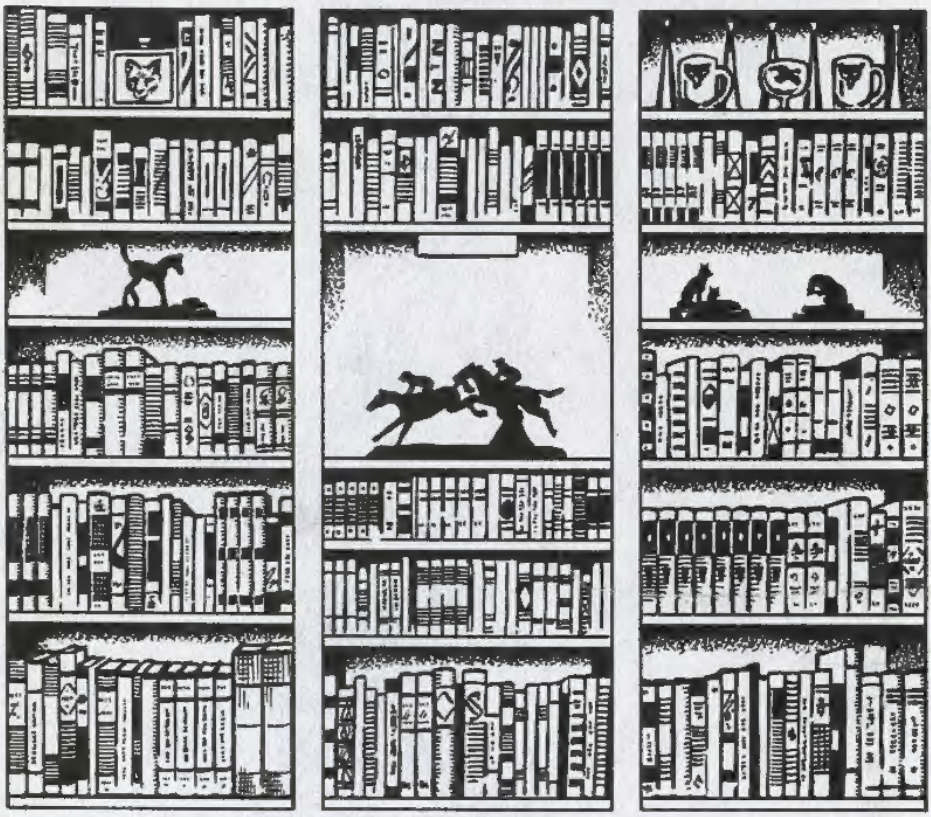

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JOHN AND MARTHA DANIELS

TIENR-T

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THE HARE;

OR,

HUNTING

INCOMPATIBLE WITH HUMANITY:

WRITTEN AS A STIMULUS

TO

YOUTH

TOWARDS A PROPER TREATMENT OF ANIMALS.

———Tim'rous of heart, and hard beſet
By death in various forms, dark ſnares and dogs,
And more unpitying men.

THOMSON.

PHILADELPHIA:

Printed for

BENJAMIN JOHNSON NO. 31 HIGH-STREET,

AND

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1802

APOLOGY.

I FEEL it neceſſary to offer a few words upon the ſubject of my intruſion. To complain of injuries received, and grievances unredreſſed, I have ſent forth this hiſtory of my life and feelings.

Upon very ſerious occaſions, "ſtones have been known to move and trees to ſpeak," in bringing forth the "man of blood;" and, if ſuch inanimate beings have been worked up to this pitch upon a cauſe not their own, may not a Hare alſo be allowed to be, at leaſt, as eloquent in its own cauſe?

THE HARE.

CHAP. I.

Sweet native land: whoſe every haunt is dear,
Whoſe every gale is muſic to mine ear:
Amidſt whoſe hills one poor retreat I ſought.
BOWLES

IT was a pleaſant bank that I had choſen for my abode, abundantly covered with thick fern, and well defended from the ſcorching ſun and the pelting ſtorm by a hedge, and high overſhadowing trees: at the root of one of theſe, and partly in a cavity of its trunk I made my *form:* you could hardly have diſtinguiſhed me amid the multitude of dock-leaves and fern by which I was ſurrounded; for my colour ſo nearly approached to that of many of the objects more immediately around me, that

to diſcover me in my retreat required keener powers of obſervation than are uſually exerciſed by the eye of the caſual paſſenger. But I was ſhy by nature; I could not bear to be noticed, and had therefore pitched upon a ſpot near which no path winded, where I could ſee to a conſiderable diſtance, myſelf the while unſeen: before me was a ſloping common, upon which ſheep ſtrayed; it deſcended into a vale where corn fields and orchards interſected each other, and a little ſtream murmured along; on the oppoſite ſide the hills were cloathed with wood, with here and there a hop yard. In caſe of ſurpriſe I had ſecured myſelf a retreat along a ditch filled with nettles and high graſs, into a neighbouring copſe; and I had a *meuſe* which gave me freedom of acceſs to a garden which was behind me on the other ſide of my hedge, where I entered as often as I pleaſed. My natural timidity was exceſ-

ſive, though as yet I had experienced nothing which could materially confirm it: I dreaded the appearance, and even the ſound of many animals; and though I did not abſolutely ſhun the haunts of man, yet I was apprehenſive leaſt any one ſhould behold me: I had frequently heard the voices of perſons walking in the garden behind me, and had trembled. My parents had inſtructed me to ſhun the ſight of man as much as poſſible: for this reaſon I was hardly ever out of my form during the whole of the day. My cuſtom was, as ſoon as I ſmelt the breath of morn, and the birds juſt began to chirrup above me, to go forth from my bed: I then uſed to make the beſt of my way into the corn fields below, or the garden above, and was always cautious to return before the ſun was high. With the ſame care I proceeded in the evening, as ſoon as the ſheep at a little diſtance from me began to appear

ſomewhat indiſtinct, and deemed myſelf happy, if I even heard not the ſound of human foot-ſteps during the courſe of my journey. But with all my timidity, I was as yet but raſh; it was neceſſary that experience ſhould be added. In the folly of my youth I thought that it was ſufficient if I ſuffered no dog nor man to approach me too near, and vainly imagined that if I once fled, it was as impoſſible to purſue me as it was to match my ſpeed. I had yet to learn, that though one of the moſt innocent, yet I was the moſt perſecuted of animals—though one of the moſt defenceleſs, yet there was as much ſtrength and malice exerciſed againſt me as againſt the ſtrongeſt, and that nature and art were perpetually employed in the deſtruction of our race.

CHAP. II.

Vain is her beſt precaution, though ſhe ſits
Conceal'd with folded ears, unſleeping eyes,
And head couch'd cloſe betwixt her hairy feet,
In act to ſpring away.

THOMSON.

YOUTH is a ſeaſon of confidence and ardor:—I had long remained unſeen, and wandered around my uſual haunts unobſerved and unmoleſted; I had now and then ſeen the ſhepherd and his dog croſs the heath at a diſtance; I had heard the latter bark in the evening, when the ſheep were driven to the fold, but they had never come nigh me. By degrees I grew more and more confident; for my days of trouble, however they might be near at hand, had not as yet arrived; and as I advanced in ſtrength and ſize, my courage (if ſo it

may be termed) proportionally increaſed. The evening often ſaw me, or ere the ſun had ceaſed to tinge the yellow broom, creeping along the hedge row to my favorite corn-field. The utility of my parents' inſtruction was almoſt disbelieved, the neceſſity for ſuch exceſſive vigilance was almoſt doubted: all that I ſaw was peace, all that I fancied was pleaſure: what harm could there be in loitering half an hour in the morning? a few minutes would bring me home again: even if I were purſued, I could ſurely match the fleeteſt creature in ſpeed; and even if I were to be puſhed beyond my uſual circle, it was eaſy for me, by a ſudden turn, to evade my purſuer, and regain my *form;* and then, when I had crept into it, what eye could behold me? or who would think of looking for me in ſuch a ſituation? Upon my inviſibility and upon my ſwiftneſs I preſumed too much: I was young and inexperienced; I

had never yet heard the ſavage yells of autumn, or felt the chilling hardſhips of winter: ignorance is apt to preſume; but I was ſoon to know and to feel that quiet is not always to be found in the wood-walks, nor plenty in the meads.—One morning I was ſitting with my eyes half ſhut, the ſummer's ſun gleaming warmly through the leaves that admitted its rays juſt upon the ſpot where I repoſed, half hid among my dewy coverture: ſuddenly I was rouſed by a ſound of near-approaching footſteps: in the firſt moment of my alarm, I almoſt involuntarily ſtarted from my receſs, but recollecting that it would be better to remain ſtill, until the object of my terror was diſcernible; I did not dare to ſtir a muſcle, and waited the event in breathleſs expectation. On the other ſide of the hedge, along the green path of the garden, I had often heard perſons walking at ſun-ſet, and could diſtinguiſh

their converſation; but then I was under no apprehenſion of being ſeen, for I knew myſelf to be perfectly ſcreened from their obſervation by the intervening hedge. The ſounds approached ſtill nearer and nearer, but by ſlow degrees; my agitation was inconceivable: at laſt they ſtopped all at once, juſt at the inſtant when I expected that my curioſity was about to be gratified, and my anxiety ſomewhat terminated by the ſight of whatever it was that cauſed my preſent diſtreſs: they ſeemed to be the ſteps of a man; I liſtened again; they had totally ceaſed. I kept my broad eyes extended upon each ſide in fixed attention, eager to receive any impreſſion; but the abundance of fern by which I was now ſurrounded, prevented me from obſerving ſo accurately as I wiſhed; the fact was, that upon my being firſt rouſed, I had actually ſprung a little out of my form, and ſquatted again, in a ſituation where I

could myſelf by no means ſee ſo well, but where the whole of my body was more open to obſervation: preſently I heard a creeping which approached the ſpot, a ſound as if the breath were drawn with difficulty: to my great ſurprize I diſcerned the ſhadow of a man, and was ready to ſink into the earth with affright; it ſtopped, and appeared to hold its arm up in the attitude of ſtriking with a ſtick, which was graſped in the hand; this was enough for me, for I was no longer in doubt of my perilou ſituation, nor againſt whom the blow was deſigned. So without longer heſitation, juſt when the arm was raiſed a little higher, I collected my ſtrength, and ſtarted away with the velocity of the wind. The premeditator of my miſchief I hardly beheld, but I heard the ſtick ſtrike the earth, and was purſued by a voley of oaths, which I ſoon outſtripped, haſtening to gain my upland wood, where I arrived quite

out of breath. Here I began to reflect upon my folly in ſtarting from my retreat and expoſing myſelf to view: but I drew concluſions too much in favour of my perſecutor. Perhaps I had alarmed him and diſturbed him by ruſhing forth: but then he crept upon me by ſtealth: he ſurely could not have attacked me in ſo determined a way, unleſs I had given ſome offence. However, it was an uſeful leſſon to me; I was ſeriouſly alarmed, nor did I venture to ſteal from the tangled copſe till ſome time after; when I returned to my form with trepidation, reſolving to be in every reſpect more circumſpect in my conduct for the future.

CHAP. III.

——Th' unuſual ſound, and clam'rous ſhout
Unheard before:

SOMERVILLE.

ALARMED and mortified at my own fallibility, I was determined to be more upon my guard; but, as the diſcovery was merely owing to accident, I conceived that I might ſtill continue in my former poſition at the root of the tree: I blamed my imprudence, and thought, that but for this, I might have remained entirely unnoticed: however, although I formed many reſolutions with reſpect to this part of my behaviour for the time to come, with regard to the general ſcheme of caution, I was very deficient: It was in vain to be ſolicitous for concealment at home, when I was hazardous abroad: my fancied ſecu-

rity had deceived me in one reſpect (though I would hardly allow of this); but with regard to the fleetneſs of my feet, oh! in this reſpect, I deemed myſelf utterly invincible, and felt perfectly at eaſe.

Unfortunately for me, a circumſtance which ſoon occurred, heightened the idea I had formed of my ſuperiority and advantages: It was my cuſtom to go into the vale to feed as ſoon as the miſt began to curl from the ſtream: I uſed to proceed acroſs the common, winding about, amidſt the prickly furze, and then, with the utmoſt care, croſſing the meadows in an oblique direction, avoided, as much as poſſible, any cottage or barn that might contain any of the human race; for theſe, ſince the late event in particular, I could not feel an increaſing predilection: but I was obliged, in my progreſs, to paſs a green-ſward lane, which I ſeldom did without feeling, in ſpite of all my youth-

ful confidence, ſome faint apprehenſions. In a cool evening, when "Heaven's breath ſmelt wooingly," and the beetle was humming around, I was deſcending the fallows, wet with twilight rain, when I fancied that I heard the bark of a dog at a little diſtance: I ran with ſome precipitancy to gain the hedge which brought me into the lane: I hoped, that if I could croſs it unobſerved, I ſhould be ſomewhat more ſecure when I arrived on the other ſide. From that quarter the alarm had proceeded: with trembling I crawled through my meuſe, and advanced to the middle of the horſe-track, when, at a ſudden turn, appeared two men: "See, ho!" was immediately vociferated at once by both of them. A panic ſeized me; whither to go I knew not; but I was inſtantaneouſly rouzed by a dog, which furiouſly ſtarted from behind them, and which, till the moment, I had not obſerved. I made

for my hole in the hedge through which I had juſt paſſed. Sudden fright incapacitates us frequently for reflection, or elſe ſo confounds us, that, though in a certain degree we are capable of reflecting, we are deprived of our accuſtomed powers of action. I was confuſed; I miſſed my aim, and the teeth of my enemy had nearly reached me; but I eluded him, and fled along the path with ſo much ſwiftneſs, that I ſcarcely left the print of my feet upon the damp herbage: my purſuer was not ſo nimbly-footed, and I had ſoon the ſatisfaction of hearing him pant far behind. With what delight did I diſcern a gate at a little diſtance! no affrighted ſoldier puſhed to his utmoſt ſtrength, and faſt courſed at the heels by a troop of enemies, ever beheld the turrets of his town acroſs the plain with more tumultuous joy; never did he ruſh forward with more redoubled vigour,

ſpurring his panting horſe to gain the moated gate, within which he expected ſecurity and repoſe, and anticipated the delightful ſound of the harſh-grating hinges incloſing him within its friendly barries. I ruſhed with great violence between the two lower bars, and found myſelf in the ſame field which I had quitted but juſt before.

CHAP. IV.

——Can ſuch things be,
And overcome us like a ſummer's cloud,
Without our ſpecial wonder?

SHAKESPEAR.

AS is the uſage of our race, I fought my ſafety by flying up the bank which I had juſt deſcended with cautious ſteps and ſlow. Although my purſuer for a few paces was not very far from my heels, yet, before I had crept through the gate, long before that, I had far outſtripped him, and having once gained the field, he never beheld me more.

A circumſtance occurred which I thought ſomewhat ſingular, and, indeed knew not how to account for. After having croſſed ſeveral fields, and attained the ſkirts of the heath, I ſtopped upon the bank to liſten: I certainly imagined

that the dog was coming up the track I had ſo lately trodden, and that he proclaimed it aloud by an inceſſant kind of noiſe indicative of ſatisfaction. He certainly ſeemed to tread the mazes by which I had aſcended, for I could hear him advancing higher and higher, as the tones were wafted by the breeze that ſwept the vale and aſcended the upland. It certainly was ſo; but yet it was ſtrange; paſſing ſtrange. However, I was highly gratified, when I diſtinguiſhed the notes ſtill leſs and leſs, till they ended with a ſhrill whiſtle and call from the men, who ſeemed to have proceeded far below. I thought much upon this event; it at once inſpired and perplexed me: I had never before been chaſed by a dog; I had learned to be alarmed at the whole ſpecies, but I conſidered them leſs dreadful than what I had been taught to believe, and deſpiſed the idea of being overtaken by any of them.

I had very far out-ſtripped that which had already attacked me, and felt not a little confident upon the occaſion: ſtill there was ſomething unaccountable in his purſuing me, after he had once loſt ſight of me. Could he trace my courſe?—except in the firſt trepidation of affright, I had taken great cáre:—along the fallow he might, perhaps, diſcern the print of my feet; but he continued to aſcend higher up the bank, and to follow me by this means through the turnips and the corn. Perhaps he had ſtarted ſome other animal, with which he was engaged, when I was liſtening in ſuch agitation: this might be my error, but ſtill there was ſomething very myſterious, very inexplicable in the circumſtance. I was not ſatisfied with my own ſolution, yet I endeavoured to impoſe upon myſelf the belief that I was ſo: at laſt I ſilenced myſelf with this reflection —that I was invincible in ſpeed. Surely,

thought I, whenever I roam abroad I am continually on the watch; my long ears, directed to whatever quarter I pleaſe, collect the fainteſt ſounds; my prominent eyes receive on every ſide the rays of light, and even enable me to diſcern thoſe who follow me. My form is a thick embowered retreat, where nought but accident and my own imprudence ever expoſed me to diſcovery: and ſhould all theſe fail, my legs are a never failing reſource; they are ſtrongly muſcular, the hinder are much longer than the fore legs, and in flying up riſing ground, I find no inconvenience: let every thing elſe fail me, in this at leaſt I am ſecure; in running, no, in running, it is impoſſible I ſhould be overcome.

CHAP. V.

———My days in one ſad tenor run,
And end with ſorrows as they firſt begun.
No parent now remains my griefs to ſhare,
No father's aid, no mother's tender care.
POPE.

ERROR, nothing but error:—my youthful ſtrength and my inexperience gave a falſe turn to my reaſonings, and lulled me into a fancied ſecurity, my ſubſequent diſaſters have made me look back with aſtoniſhment upon the heedleſs days of my youth.

But there was ſome allowance to be made for me, when circumſtances are taken into conſideration which I am about to relate; little did I know of the protection of parents: I was born amid the inclemencies of winter; my two brothers and myſelf

were inſtructed by my mother in all that was neceſſary for our tender years: but we had not ventured from beneath her eye, when a diſaſter happened which ſeparated us, and tore me from my deareſt ties for ever. We were born in the vale below, in a meadow beſide the babbling brook; it was one of thoſe ſtreams which reduced in the drought of ſummer to flow within a narrow channel, are in the rains of more inclement ſeaſons ſwelled to a torrent; the drizzling ſhowers had for ſome time rendered our ſituation uncomfortable, notwithſtanding the affectionate ſolicitude with which our mother endeavoured to protect us: but one night we were ſuddenly roufed by the ruſhing ſound of waters, and were overwhelmed, before we were thoroughly awakened; whatever became of my dear parent and the reſt of her offſpring, I knew not; this I know—that I never beheld the latter more: in all pro-

bability they were carried away by the flood and drowned, and I can only recollect their parting ſcreams. The horrors of that hour are too indelibly impreſſed upon my mind, ever to be effaced, as long as "memory holds her ſeat." No one who has not experienced it, can conceive how dreadful it is to ſtruggle with ruſhing waters, when darkneſs impenetrable hovers around. I had not attained my full ſtrength, and though I ſtrove with all my little might, what could it avail? The billows were irreſiſtible; the ſtream paſſed over me; its eddies whirled me round; I was hurried away.

I had not quite loſt my ſenſe, when I was thrown into a ſituation where the waters left me ſhivering and helpleſs. The morning awakened me to ſights of woe: at the firſt gleam of light I diſcovered the meadow afloat, and the place of my nativity immerſed beneath a brown deluge.

I had never ſtrayed beyond the incloſures of the ſmall field, but I recollected the ſpot whereon I now ſtood; I had often ſported as far as the corner where a hay-ſtack ſtood, half of which had been cut down almoſt to the ground, for the purpoſe of foddering cattle, and upon this I was thrown. I got down as ſoon as I could; already inſtructed, in part, how to chuſe my food, I felt grateful that the diſaſter had not occurred before, when I ſhould have been more helpleſs than I found myſelf at preſent. But my ſituation was cheerleſs: ſuddenly forced from the downy protection of a parent, and but half inſtructed in the means of preſervation, the world was all before me, and my condition no means enviable.

So the ſhipwrecked mariner, when the ſurge has left him upon an unknown ſhore, ſurveys at day-break the country he is about to enter: he aſcends to the top of

the rock, and caſts his eyes around:—whither ſhall he go?—to what quarter ſhall he direct his devious ſteps? The night was cold and dark, the wild winds whiſtled around his head; he waited for the light with anxiety, that he might diſcover where he had been thrown, but the light beams upon him, and does not take away his apprehenſions:—with doubts and fears he ſets out to explore the interior of the country: perhaps the wild beaſt is already prowling about to ſeize him; perhaps the native, ſtill more ferocious, lurks at hand eager to ſtrip him; or, it may be, to cover him with wounds, and leave him to periſh on the plain: he advances, each thicket ſeems to contain an enemy within its dark receſs; but, at laſt, the friendly hut of the hoſpitable ſavage receives him; he is warmed and fed; he forgets his former toils and dangers.

And thus it was with me; an unknown land was extended before me, which it was neceſſary I ſhould explore. My mind had been impreſſed with notions of the variety of adverſaries that I had to dread: this was not mere conjecture: but I ſet out, miſerable as I was, upon my journey, not without ſome gleam of hope, and it was fulfilled beyond the meaſure of my expectation. I gained a pleaſant bank; there I made the form which I have before deſcribed, and dwelt unmoleſted and unobſerved, until I had attained the perfection of my vigor.

But the mere loſs of my parent was not the only evil which oppreſſed me; in a ſhort time ſhe would have ſent me abroad to ſhift for myſelf, as ſoon as ſhe had enabled me to ſupport my independence; as it was, I had learned but half my leſſon, and my inſtructor was gone; what I had gained had not been followed up, and was

too apt to be perverted by the incorrectneſs of my judgment, and the ignorance of my years: but the little bark can outlive the fury of the tempeſt, remaining unhurt amid the yawning waves; and the ſame providence protects the defenceleſs hare, ſurrounded on all hands by the moſt voracious enemies.

CHAP. VI.

His heart, from cruel ſport eſtrang'd, would
bleed,
To work the woe of any living thing.
BEATTIE.

ONE day as my eyes were intent upon the outſtretched heath, I diſcerned two perſons loitering along languidly in the heat of noon-tide: I had ample leiſure to obſerve them as they advanced: they were both young, but from their actions appeared to poſſeſs characters entirely diſtinct: the one who ſeemed to be the oldeſt, was intent upon the wild-flowers that grew in abundance among the ſhort graſs, plucking here and there a blue-bell or a heath, and examining them with minute attention; whilſt he often turned to contemplate the proſpect: the other threw ſtones at the

ſheep, or ſtretched himſelf upon the ground while he tore up graſs by the roots, and ſcattered it wantonly about him; then when his companion had conſiderably gained the ſtart of him, aroſe and ran after him, often calling aloud to him to ſtop till he ſhould come up:—they gradually drew nearer and nearer to the ſpot where I ſat; the elder obſerved a beautiful roſe which grew out of the hedge not far from me: he ſtepped forward ſtretching out his hand to pluck, and add it to the collection he had already made: I trembled, but did not dare to ſtir: he looked for plants along the bottom of the hedge, and he preſently caſt his eyes upon me, while I affecting not to obſerve him, remained as before: he was intent upon me when the other came up. "What are you conſidering ſo attentively?" ſaid the younger.

"I will ſhew you, if you will promiſe to let it alone."

"Very well; very well; what is it? let me ſee it."

"Look there then, at the foot of that elm, do you not ſee ſomething?

"I ſee the root peeping up among ſome dry graſs, and there is ſomething that looks like a large clod."

"That is a hare: obſerve how cautiouſly ſhe ſits with her head between her fore feet, and her long ears cloſe upon her grey back."

"Well, I never ſhould have found out that, if you had not ſhewn it me. I was never any hand at finding a hare in her form: I with I had not left my gun behind me in the corner of the hall; if it was not too far, and I did not think ſhe would be gone by the time I returned, I would go back and fetch it."

"Oh! for ſhame! I thought you promiſed to let it alone, you cannot go from your promiſe." "Ah! but when I ſaid

that, I did not know what it was; I did not know it was a hare, or I would not have ſaid ſo; beſides, all that I did ſay was, 'very well,' and that you know is nothing at all."

"Fie upon ſuch equivocation! if I had known this I would never have pointed it out to you: cannot you take ſufficient pleaſure in beholding heaven's creatures, all beautiful as they are, without deſiring to diſturb their tranquillity, or deſtroy that beauty?"

"I cannot ſay that I ſee any particular beauty in a hare: I only wiſh that Rover was here, I would ſhew you ſuch ſport as you never ſaw in your life."

"Why, you would not wiſh to worry this inoffenſive animal."

"Inoffenſive? Yes, it is ſtupid enough in its appearance: I will have a fling at it, that I am determined." At theſe words he ran to pick up a ſtone lying upon the

graſs at ſome diſtance: mean time his companion who ſeemed to perceive the inefficacy of direct oppoſition, gently approached and threw at me the roſe which he had juſt plucked: it pitched lightly upon me; I darted forward, and was ſoon out of ſight both of my oppreſſor and defender.

I made my way through a hurdle into a neighbouring field: they both purſued me with very different motives, the one to exerciſe his wanton tyranny, the other to reſcue me from an unwarrantable attack: I might be ſaid to be attended by a good and evil genius: the former perpetually endeavouring to counteract the malicious deſigns of the latter. Having crept through, I ſtopped ſhort and lay ſtill in a furrow, where I knew I could not be ſeen, and that being the caſe, that the purſuit would immediately ceaſe.

CHAP. VII.

———Oh! 'tis excellent
To have a giant's ſtrength;—but it is tyrannous
To uſe it like a giant.

SHAKESPEAR.

THEY both reached the hurdle breathleſs; they looked anxiouſly over it, but I was gone. "Well, I will match you for this," (ſaid the younger, throwing away the ſtone with diſappointment), "I ſaw what you did, ſir, and what you had no buſineſs to do."

"I am heartily glad (replied the other), that the animal has eſcaped, and that you have been prevented from committing an unjuſtifiable action." "How unjuſtifiable?—Suppoſing even that I had killed it, had not I a right to do it if I choſe?"

"Pray be so good as to recollect that a power is not a right: and so you did not actually think of killing it, but you would have cast the stone at it not with this design, but that of suffering it to take the chance of its being maimed for life, merely to indulge a momentary gratification? I cannot imagine that you intended to stone it merely for the sake of seeing it exercise its legs, for the rose (as you saw) was sufficient to produce that effect."

The younger whistled and turned his head another way.

"However, I will suppose that you did really intend to destroy this animal, which, bad as it is, is yet the best construction of which your purpose will admit: this will not bear you out; your action was wanton: you had no business to employ your power except in a case of urgent necessity. You have a power, it is true, but you are accountable for the abuse of it: your father

has a power of chaſtiſing you; but if he were to exerciſe it whenever you fell in his way, how ſhould you like his conduct?"

"Come, let us go, we ſhall elſe be too late."

"I will preſently: but I beſeech you, my dear Thomas, to think ſomewhat more ſeriouſly upon the ſubject: do not ſuffer yourſelf to be deluded by the falſe notion that "might is right;" the wretch who bears the knife and kneels upon the boſom of a trembling fellow-creature, whom he is about to ſtab, may plead the ſame excuſe. You have made a great miſtake; if you wanted food, and this animal came in your way, they deity does not forbid you to deſtroy it; but then it muſt be done in the moſt merciful manner that is poſſible to be deviſed; and when a creature may be killed by a ſlight blow, I cannot deem thoſe perſons defenſible, who worry it, till it dies in deſpair."

"And ſo, I ſuppoſe, you will pretend to oppoſe hunting?"

"Certainly; to torture an animal to death, when a ſingle ſtroke would put an end to its exiſtence, is indeed a barbarous purſuit, unworthy of enlightened minds: neceſſity, and the impoſſibility of deſtroying game in any other way, could alone give it ſome colouring of juſtice. With reſpect to our conduct towards the beings over which we are placed, if we are compelled to put them out of our way, "a neceſſary act incurs no blame."

Not ſo, when, held within their proper bounds,
And guiltleſs of offence, they range the air,
Or take their paſtime in the ſpacious field:
There they are privileged; and he that hunts
Or harms them there, is guilty of a wrong,
Diſturbs th' economy of nature's realm,
Who, when ſhe form'd deſigned them an abode.
The ſum is this.—If man's convenience, health,
Or ſafety interfere, his rights and claims

Are paramount, and muſt extinguiſh their's,
Elſe they are all—the meaneſt things that are—
As free to live, and to enjoy that life,
As God was free to form them at the firſt.
Who in his ſov'reign wiſdom made them all.*

* COWPER.

CHAP. VIII.

———Where, alas!
Is innocence ſecure?

SOMERVILLE.

MY trepidation was extreme at the idea of the ferocity which the youth had diſplayed to me, all harmleſs, and as I had hitherto thought, all unprotected. The conduct I had lately witneſſed aſtoniſhed me: man was in one inſtance more brutal, in another inſtance more benevolent than I had ever ſuppoſed; and if I had more to fear, I had alſo more to hope: had it not been for the contraſt, I had not learned to what extent the cruel and humane diſpoſition can reign in the breaſt of man. Upon the whole, I gained comfort, and my knowledge was attained without much ſuffering.

I now conceived that it would be highly dangerous for me to continue in the same form: I had every thing to dread from the disappointment of the young man; he had been guilty of duplicity within my hearing, and was I to blame if I reposed no confidence in so perfidious a character?

Equivocation is highly dangerous. Truth is a beam in this night of error, that does not shine in vain; the other is a mockery of that beam, an *ignis fatuus*, that leads astray to peril—to destruction.

My first care was to secure a second retreat; although I was attached to my old habitation, which had so long protected me. I had abundant choice: I might retire to the wood, or enter into the thick furze: and what forbad me still to remain beneath the shelter of my favorite hedge? Other spots upon the same bank might be chosen, where nothing but the most obstinate curiosity could observe my lurking

place: a hundred perſons may paſs by the ſpot where a hare ſits, may almoſt tread upon it, yet it will remain unſeen; ſo various are the eyes with which men walk forth: one, perhaps is the ſlave of intereſt; he takes his walk, he looks at nature, it is true, but with eyes of intereſt: if he ſurvey a beautiful ſcene, he inſtantly turns his thoughts; he thinks not of its beauty, but the advantages to which it may be turned: and, where he beholds flowery meads and lofty trees, what is he muſing upon? the felling of timber, and the produce and management of each acre. No wonder that he obſerves me not: his imagination is elſewhere.—Another walks forth with heavy ſteps to his labour, his thoughts run upon the toil of the day; and no wonder that he obſerves me not.—Another walks forth with eye intent upon the earth, and arms folded acroſs his breaſt;—he is a lover, his eyes are intent

upon nature, but the beauty of his miſtreſs is the ſubject of his contemplation; no wonder that he obſerves me not, his thoughts are elſewhere. But there is one who walks forth in the fields and the flowers, who ſearches the hedge-rows and the thickets, with as much attention as the botaniſt—he is the ſportſman; the beauties of the ſcene muſt ſtrike his ſight, but they make no impreſſion upon his heart; for we are the objects to which his attention is directed: he walks in the midſt of goodneſs, and mercy teeming around him in all the works of the deity, but what is the purpoſe of his heart? to drive from its retreat, and ſacrifice to his wanton cruelty one of the moſt harmleſs—the moſt defenceleſs of creatures. Ah! why ſhould the all-powerful eye of man, that eye which can beam with benevolence or melt with ſympathy, can gliſten to encourage modeſt virtue, or

ſcowl terrific upon ſhivering guilt? why ſhould that eye be proſtituted? what pity that it ſhould ever turn its cool glance upon ſuffering worth, or contemplate with ſteady indifference innocence in agony, in diſtreſs!—that inſtead of looking to admire, it ſhould look to deſtroy!

However, I loſt no time in haſtening my removal:—I was determined not to quit my bank. I felt that I loved it as a friend, which in the hour of danger and diſtreſs had received and ſheltered an unprotected orphan from the mercileſs aſſaults of the world.

CHAP. IX.

He was, indeed, to me, as my good angel,
To guard me from all dangers.

MASSINGER.

I CERTAINLY was in the right when I formed the reſolution of retiring: the diſtance of a ſtone's throw afforded me as much ſecurity as I could deſire, and in all probability preſerved my life. I juſtly conceived that my ſafety was more menaced than ever, nor did I long remain in a ſtate of uncertainty.

The next morning I ſaw the elder youth advancing with all poſſible haſte to the place where I had been wont to ſit, and whence he had the day before diſturbed me. I was puzzled to account for this conduct, for I could not permit myſelf to ſuppoſe that he intended to diſturb my

quiet again, unleſs ſome urgency demanded ſuch a meaſure. He peeped under the tree, as ſoon as he came in ſight of it, endeavouring to diſcover me; and when he obſerved that I was fled, a mixture of joy and fear alternate, was diffuſed over his features.

He retired cautiouſly, and with as much haſte as he came; but was not quick enough to elude the obſervance of the younger, who was quickly advancing along the top of the bank, with a gun ready cocked, and all the addreſs of an ambuſcader. He ſtarted at the ſight of the other, and turned pale; but he continued his prying courſe until he came in ſight of my form; his conjectures were verified: he beheld the long the graſs preſſed down at the ſides, but I was gone: a ſudden burſt of paſſion exhibited itſelf, he bit his lips, and ſtamped upon the ground.

The elder then ſtopped, and advanced towards him—"what is the matter?" ſaid he.

"Nothing at all; or, ſuppoſing any thing ſhould be the matter, I do not conceive myſelf obliged to tell you."

"I do not wiſh or affect to have any authority over you in this reſpect. I thought you ſeemed to be in pain, and I was anxious to know whether this were really the caſe, for then it might have been in my power to have relieved you: at any rate I expected you would have anſwered with civility a queſtion which was intended in kindneſs."

"I know nothing about your kindneſs, nor do I think it worth while to take much trouble about it:—I know that there are ſome perſons who, whether they have any buſineſs or not, are always intermeddling with the affairs of others."

"This is very true: but why do you frown? Have you met with any one this morning who has done you an injury? You look at me in a way which almoſt makes me fancy that you have levelled your laſt remark at me; and yet I ſhould be ſorry to ſuppoſe that it was ſo. Tell me, has any body done you an injury?"

"Yes, ſome one has."

"Who is it? I am extremely ſorry for it; can I help you to redreſs it? who is it?"

"Yourſelf, ſir."

"How can I have offended you this morning? I cannot recollect doing any thing, except aſking you how you did, juſt before I ſet out for my walk—could that offend you?"

"I do not care; I am determined to ſhoot that hare in ſpite of you."

"What hare do you mean? I have ſeen none ſince yeſterday."

"Well, I always thought you ſpiteful enough; but never conceived you would have been ſo mean as to have told a falſehood upon ſo fooliſh an occaſion. Now, you will pretend to tell me that you have not driven away that hare as you did yeſterday: no, I would not believe you if you were to ſwear to it."

"I hold ſwearing in too great veneration to ſport with it in ſuch a trifling manner: if I have ſaid that I have not ſeen it, my aſſertion is to me as ſacred as though I had atteſted it in ten thouſand courts of judicature; and as to being guilty of a falſhood, no occaſion, whether fooliſh or ſerious, will juſtify my conduct in that reſpect."

"You may ſay what you pleaſe, but I will not believe it, and if—

Here appeared to be ſo much obſtinate malice in theſe aſſertions, that I dreaded to what lengths the ungovernable temper of diſappointed rage might proceed. I

felt for my protector, and was resolved to shew my gratitude for the kindness he had already bestowed, and for that which he evidently intended to have exercised towards me. The purest intentions that ever emanated from the benevolent breast, have been baleful in their consequences, and apparently unproductive of the excellent result which they were intended to effect. No sooner have they commenced their carreer, than up starts some left-handed circumstance to thwart them into seeming evil: but the truth is, that creatures are short-sighted, while the Deity has an eye that takes in at once the whole horizon; that views causes and consequences, and in whose hands is the balance of justice. It is our's to plan, but the disposal is not in our power, and we should humbly bow to the will of heaven, let good or ill betide us.

With the purpoſe, therefore, of preventing any future altercation, I ruſhed forth, determined to expoſe myſelf to injury, rather than that obſtinacy ſhould retire unconvinced of its error, or that rage ſhould uſurp the empire over reaſon. "There," ſaid my defender, "will you be convinced now—yonder goes the object of your purſuit, and I am glad to ſee that it is completely out your reach."

Now I might very eaſily have withdrawn unperceived, but I made a ruſtling on purpoſe to be obſerved. "Where, where," ſaid the other, turning ſhort about, "we ſhall ſee whether ſhe is out of gun-ſhot." He turned in haſte, his gun was cocked, it went off in his hand. My heart was torn with anguiſh when I beheld my champion ſtart, his arm immediately drooping at his ſide: the author of the miſchief ſtood thunderſtruck, his eyes rivetted to the ground, whilſt the other, binding up his arm with his handkerchief, immediately retired.

CHAP. X.

My thoughts ſhall fix, my lateſt wiſh depend
On thee.

PRIOR.

I WAS too much intereſted for my benefactor not to feel a more than ordinary ſhare of anguiſh upon this unforunate event: I conſidered myſelf as the author of the miſchief, but it was a conſolation to me that I was guiltleſs of any evil intention, and when I reflected upon the motives by which my conduct was governed, I felt no cauſe for reproach. I wiſhed much to ſee my wounded friend once more ſtrolling near my haunts, that I might aſcertain whether he had really received ſuch an injury, as precluded him from the enjoyment of ſtirring abroad, and re-viſiting ſcenes in which he had apparently, re-

ceived ſo much pure ſatisfaction. My expectations were diſappointed: the evening came, and the morning came; another and another ſtill ſucceeded; and my anxieties were unremoved; he was not to be beheld upon the heath culling ſweet flowers, and

> Bruſhing with haſty ſteps the dew away,
> To meet the ſun upon the upland lawn.

My reader may imagine that he was, perhaps, at this time languiſhing on a bed of ſickneſs, his friends and parents weeping around; perhaps already laid in the cold, cold grave, while all were lamenting the premature extinction of thoſe virtues, and that genius, which might have arouzed a people's admiration, and ſwelled its fame. For my own part, I can affirm, that my ſtate of ſuſpence was by no means enviable, and I deſired to be convinced of the truth. Already I mourned the loſs of exemplary benevolence, and the firſt

friend I had ever known among all the human race. I had caught a glimpſe of goodneſs, and the picture had charmed me; but, no ſooner was it preſented, than it was hurried away from my ſight. Imagination repreſented him as periſhing, or bearing about him a wound that might embitter the cup of life: how were my fears and my uncertainty to be removed? The information which I anxiouſly expected was denied me: he never more appeared to eaſe me of my apprehenſions, and releaſe my aching boſom from its oppreſſion.

But while I was abſorbed in theſe melancholy reflections, a ſenſe of my immediate danger rouſed me from the contemplation of the diſaſters of another. My utmoſt vigilance ſoon became doubly neceſſary to preſerve me from continual aſſaults, which fell ſo thick upon me, that my life was rendered more miſerable than it had ever

been before. Misfortune ſoon hemmed me in on every ſide.

Deſpairing of beholding my benefactor again, I removed myſelf totally from the fatal heath, where I no longer expected to remain ſecure. Now on all ſides the yellow harveſt waved, and the reaper carried his ſickle to the field. I knew that the winter of the year muſt quickly come, and therefore was determined to provide againſt it as well as was in my power. With this reflection I ſought a new hiding-place, and I fixed upon one, as I thought, of no common ſecurity. Adjoining to a thick wood ſtood a large barn, apparently long ſince diſuſed, where the briar and the nettle grew abundantly round. Between this building and the hedge I lay concealed, and congratulated myſelf upon the advantages of my ſituation: but I had not been long here, before my quiet was diſturbed; I was found out by enemies equal-

ly as implacable as men or dogs, but not ſo cruel as the former, becauſe impelled by the imperious demands of hunger and neceſſity, and merely obeying the call of ſelf-preſervation. The fox diſcovered my retreat, and uſed all his craftineſs to deſtroy me: the voracious weaſel thirſted to ſuck my blood; the pole-cat, and all the vermin of the field were bent upon my deſtruction. I ſoon found out that I was in the neighbourhood of a large farm-yard, conſequently, that I was thus expoſed to the attacks of animals much inferior to myſelf in ſize, but to which I entertained a moſt invincible averſion. I lamented my hard fate, that I had no ſooner choſen a place of retreat, but I was compelled to abandon it; I thought that the whole brute creation ſeemed to be in league againſt my life; I envied the condition of the feathered race: oh! happy birds, ſaid I within myſelf, oh! that I had the wings of a bird!

Surely, of all the animals that dwell beneath the face of heaven, a hare is the moſt perſecuted, and I am the moſt perſecuted among hares.

End of Book the First.

CHAP. XI.

Who can forbear to ſmile with nature? Can
The ſtormy paſſions in the boſom roll,
While every gale is peace, and every grove
Is melody?

THOMSON.

THERE is a ſatisfaction about autumn that far ſurpaſſes the raptures of ſpring or the expectations of ſummer. It is the evening of the year, when the contemplative mind receives a tranquil delight from the impreſſion of the abundant beauty and fertility that beams around. The green liveries of ſpring are pleaſurable; the winter is juſt overpaſt, and vegetation revives anew; the blade ſprings delicate, and the bud ſhoots tenderly: pleaſurable are the bright days of ſummer; they announce that the fruits of the earth are advancing

to their maturity: but far more pleaſurable ſtill are the luxuriant days of autumn; the ſight and the palate are then variouſly gratified with a delicious profuſion: nature diſplays a picture of the richeſt colors and moſt tranſcendent harmonies, ſhe ſpreads a table of the choiceſt luxuries: the heart of man is gladdened: he caſts his eyes around, and lo! the fruits of his labors are poured abroad: the corn gracefully bends its waving ſtalks: its ears are pointed towards the earth, as though they would return the grains once more into its prolific boſom, unleſs prevented by the ſickle, and they admoniſh the reaper that his hour is arrived. The cluſtering grape and the twining hop invite the hand of the gatherer; and the luſcious apple is ſeen from afar upon the bending bough. Behold the reward of his toils, the conſummation of his hopes and wiſhes; this proſpect of plenty ſhould expand his heart with

univerſal benevolence, and teach him to render others partakers of the bleſſings which he moſt abundantly enjoys. As far as his power extends, every thing ſhould ſhare his feelings, and exult with him in the poſſeſſion of peace and plenty; but no, his emotions are often tranſient; pride, paſſion, or intereſt, ſtep in, and the door that was opened is cloſed again. However, if he could not be poſitively bounteous, he might poſſeſs the virtue in a negative degree; he might, at leaſt, leave the native tenants of the field unmoleſted, and not diſturb the economy of gentle nature's reign. Obſerve what he does: at this ſeaſon particularly, he lets his fury looſe upon them; like a tyrant glutted at a full banquet, he iſſues orders for the ſlaughter of an innocent multitude, and exults to join in the maſſacre and contribute his ſhare; all his wants are amply gratified; this abundance gives him indolence, this

indolence induces cruelty. In this, he is chiefly his own enemy; he exchanges ſerenty for tumult, and the wife will not envy him his exchange.

I appeal to the feeling heart which kindles at the contemplation of natural beauties, and experiences within that harmony and delight which it beholds without, to whom it is no joy.

This falſely-cheerful barbarous game of death! Surely the lovers of ſuch ſavage paſtime muſt be, in a great meaſure, inſenſible to the charms of creation: but, if they did in reality, the influence would be ſuch as muſt eſtrange them from barbarity, for they benignantly inſpire ſerenity and compoſure, not agitation and ferocity; or, the hermit would never retire from the buſy world to the moſt ſequeſtered ſpot, if he did not hope to find there that quiet which the croud denies, and enjoy, without intruſion, his maple diſh and homely

fare; his devotions undiſturbed; his paſſions ſubdued by religious contemplation and a holy calm. But, it ſhould ſeem as if a man, unſatisfied with the uproar and confuſion of the populous city, where the violence of paſſions "lords it wide," were envious of the ſerenity of rural ſcenes, and muſt needs be ambitious of diſturbing the quiet of the groves and woods. If he viſit the country with theſe intentions, at the ſame time that he profeſſes to enjoy it, he deceives himſelf, and acts injuriouſly towards it; and, if all the game that the brakes and fields produce were to be deſtroyed, the one half of thoſe who profeſs a taſte for the charms of nature, would diſcover their error. Theſe do but transfer the turbulence of their ſpirits from the croud to the retirement; and, when they are wearied of engaging in conflict with their fellow creatures, they turn the tide of their ferocity upon the brute creation. They ranſack

earth, air, and water for their victims; and, when they have immolated them, they call it ſport. He who would acquire a knowledge of true rural pleaſures, ſhould adopt the advice of the poet:—

Would you then taſte the tranquil ſcene?
Be ſure your boſoms be ſerene;
Devoid of hate, devoid of ſtrife,
Devoid of all that poiſons life:
And much it 'vails you, in their place,
To graft the love of human race.

—SHENSTONE.

CHAP. XII.

Avaunt, away! the cruel ſway,
Tyrannic man's dominion;
The ſportsman's joy, the murd'ring cry,
The flutt'ring gory pinion.

BURNS.

DRIVEN from haunt to haunt, I knew no place of reſt, and thought myſelf the moſt miſerable creature in exiſtence. I now took ſhelter upon a woody declivity, where the axe had not for an age diſturbed the ſilence of the ſpot, or laid low the leafy honors of the ſpreading beech and knotted oak; theſe over-canopied my head, and tangled underwood protected all the avenues to my receſs. The foliage, changing its ſober green for tints the moſt luxuriant, announced that, ere long, the ſhade would be thinned.

One morning I heard guns reſound from various parts of the country, and could not imagine the cauſe. From the traits which I had occaſion to diſcover in the diſpoſition of man, I thought it not improbable that there might be two contending parties mutually incenſed, and at war with each other. However, if poſſible, I reſolved to diſcover the ſource of this diſturbance, although I was determined, at the ſame time, not to hazard much in the enquiry. If men were contending with men, they would hardly turn aſide to moleſt me; I ſhould be an object beneath their notice; yet I was bent upon caution. I, therefore, ſtole gently upwards to a graſſy mound, which peeped above the tops of the trees, and from the brow of which I had a ſurvey of a moſt extenſive country. There I poſted myſelf, and, like a vigilant centinel, was eager to obſerve the motions of my enemy. The noiſes ſtill continued at intervals,

ſometimes reſounding from a great diſtance, where it would be impoſſible for the eye to diſcern any thing diſtinctly: at other times nearer: but the exploſion was generally ſingle, or rarely more than two following each other in rapid ſucceſſion: ſometimes, juſt at the moment before the exploſion, I fancied that I ſaw a flaſh, and immediately afterwards, ſmoke ariſing from ſome of the fields below, and diſcerned, here and there, men croſſing the fields in an oblique direction. I fancied alſo that they were attended by dogs, and this increaſed my alarm. At length, in a ſtubble, immediately below the wood, I ſaw two large dogs bound over the fence, which were preſently followed by two men, each with a gun in his hand. I feared to return to my form, and yet I feared to ſtay; at laſt, however, I adopted the former expedient, becauſe I conceived that I ſhould be leſs expoſed in caſe they ſhould

advance into the wood: my heart fluttered as I deſcended, but I deſcended in ſafety.

Scarcely had I ſecured my retreat, when I plainly heard the men ſpeak to each other, and "To ho" was pronounced with ſuch a lengthened hollow tone, as threw me again into a tremor: I almoſt doubted whether I was not the object of reſearch, and yet I knew not well how that could be; but I was ignorant how far the power of thoſe awful beings, men and dogs, extended, and therefore my ſuſpence was awful. In an inſtant I was releaſed; both guns were let off, and I remained unhurt. I heard the flutter of many wings above my head, and looking up, I beheld a covey of patridges, who wheeled off, and paſſed away without croſſing over the wood; but one poor bird unable to keep up with the reſt of his companions, ſcreaming piteouſly, flew faintly to the ground, and hid itſelf upon the bank, cloſe at my

ſide. The ſportſmen, I ſuppoſe, did not obſerve it had dropped, for they immediately departed, as I imagined, in purſuit of the numerous part of the covey, which had flown into the vale. Thus they relieved me from anxiety upon my own account; but they had preſented a ſhocking ſpectacle to my eyes. If ſportſmen knew the agonies of a wounded bird, left to pine and to periſh alone, thoſe in whom the feelings of humanity are not entirely obliterated, would heſitate upon the propriety of drawing a trigger. They intend, it is true, to take the life; but, inſtead of this, they often maim, and the bird eſcapes, wherefore they ſhould not venture upon ſo hazardous a condition. I beheld the poor creature mangled and bleeding, and rolling itſelf upon the ground in exceſs of agony, or ſitting diſconſolate, with its head tucked under its drooping wing. I heard its mournful cries, and

beheld its diſtreſs without being able to relieve its anguiſh. I would have retired, but for the fear of being myſelf overtaken by a like calamity. I was therefore, obliged to witneſs miſery, which rent my heart; but the pangs of which I could not alleviate. Till now, I had not known that theſe birds were equally the objects of perſecution with ourſelves; and much did I marvel, that man, who ſeemed a being of ſuch power and wiſdom, ſhould ſtoop to ſuch acts of cruelty, and condeſcend to become ſuch an executioner; but I was taught a leſſon of content, and learned to think myſelf, for the future, by no means the moſt miſerable of all creatures.

CHAP. XIII.

The roar was up amidſt the woods,
And fill'd the air with barbarous diſſonance,
MILTON.

HEAVILY the hours paſſed until duſk relieved me at leaſt from ſights and ſounds of woe: with the lengthening ſhadows I went forth to ſeek my uſual ſubſiſtence, and when I returned, I found that the afflicted bird was no more.

The ſounds which had annoyed me ſo much on the preceding day were renewed the next morning with the light, and my apprehenſions were perpetually kept awake for my own ſafety: the neighbourhood of theſe birds was by no means favourable; where they had been once diſcovered, thither their perſecutors would certainly return, and my only ſecurity was to retire

to a ſteeper part of the declivity, where the wood was more impervious. This I eaſily accompliſhed; and although I could not prevent theſe noiſes from aſſaulting my ears, yet I was more at eaſe with regard to perſonal ſafety. From day to day the ſame war was continued with the utmoſt vigor, as though the object of it had been nothing leſs than the utter extermination of all the feathered tribes; and I learned one evening from an experienced hare, whom I met with by chance, that the ſeaſon for ſhooting had juſt commenced: at the ſame time he alſo warned me, that as cruel an attack would ſhortly be made upon all our race, as ſoon as the corn ſhould be completely ſecured within the barns: he added many cautionary hints with reſpect to myſelf, which he had acquired by long obſervation, having been himſelf ſeveral times hunted, but having had the good fortune to eſcape unhurt. I heard his re-

marks with attention, and promiſed to obſerve them, but ſtill thought that they would not be ſo neceſſary to me, whoſe ſpeed and ſtrength might match with the moſt vigorous of our ſpecies. Hitherto I had very little idea of the ſagacity of dogs, and of their wonderful powers of ſcenting; or, if I had been acquainted with theſe to their full extent, I ſhould have learned to think more humbly of myſelf, before ſad experience came to check my pride.

The day was miſty, and the ſun had not yet peretrated the heavy vapours which hovered over the earth: I was rouſed from ſlumber by the ſound of a horn echoing from far over the oppoſite hills; again it ſounded, and the gale wafted it ſtronger to my attentive ears. I ſtarted to my poſt of obſervation, I could ſee nothing; the haze was driven before the wind, and a drizzling rain deſcended. Preſently I heard through the woods, the cries of

dogs ſounding from different quarters; this had not laſted long, when, on a ſudden, a multitude of them raiſed their various tones all at once, and the ſhouts of men were added to ſwell the dreadful tumult. I gueſſed the cauſe, and lamented the fate of the unhappy ſufferer, whom they followed apparently with unremitting ardor: "all the ſavage ſoul of game was up;" and now I could faintly diſcern dogs, horſes and men ſtraining up a ſteep thicket, and then ruſhing over a wide heath with the utmoſt fury; they glanced along with ſuch velocity that they were ſoon out of ſight and hearing; and, indeed, the heavineſs of the air was favorable to neither. And now I thought that, perhaps, having overtaken the unfortunate, they were tearing it quivering limb from limb, and pouring its blood upon the ground, as a libation to their inſatiate cruelty; from this conſideration, I began to reflect upon my own

ſtate; I think that my turn may come next, and that it behoves me to be prepared to meet the calamity with reſolution. Bewildered in a maze of opinions, at one moment adopting one plan, at the next rejecting it—I ſtarted again. Sure it is not an illuſion: the ſound returns, by degrees it grows louder and louder; men, horſes and dogs appear re-tracing the heath they had ſo lately croſſed; they ruſh again down the thicket, and I looſe ſight of them in the woodlands: the echoes of the neighbouring hills return the horrid din, and the woods themſelves reſound like a vaulted chamber. Horror ſeized my trembling limbs: I ſhuddered at the approaching fate of the victim: but, ſuddenly, the ſound ceaſed; a dreadful pauſe enſued, like the ſilence that prevails between the boiſterous guſts of the tempeſt:—now, ſurely they are murdering—no—the tumult is reſumed, but not ſo univerſally;—hark, the

voices of men animating their fellow-laborers to the bloody work;—hark! they ply the thong, they blow the horn: but the cry of the dogs is weakened; one by one they ſend forth their notes; by degrees they die away, and are heard only at long intervals. The ſun now burſt through the clouds and his fervid beams drank up the morning rain; mid-day was paſſed: I heard the bugle again; the cover was quitted, I ſaw the ſpotted pack ſummoned and conducted homeward. The train ſlowly returned over the uplands with languid pace, as though fatigued with the exertions of the day; but whether they retired ſatiated, or diſappointed, I could not aſcertain.

For a few hours longer I was certainly ſecure from them, and I reſolved to employ part of theſe in gratifying my curioſity, and diſcovering what I could of the ravages of this mock warfare.

CHAP. XIV.

O pity 'twere that hearts which knew no guile
Should ever feel the pangs of ruth or wrong.
BOWLES.

TWILIGHT ſtreaked the weſt, and a few ſtars appeared upon the brow of modeſt evening, faintly twinkling before I ventured to ſally forth. At the hour when the virtuous among men ſit down to reſt in the boſom of their families from the toils of the day, and to enjoy what they have dearly earned by the ſweat of their brow; at this hour of compoſure it is our delight to roam in queſt of ſuſtenance, without intruding upon the concerns of others: nor is the firſt beam of morning leſs our own; before the village hind has ſhaken off ſleep, or driven his team to the field, we ſatisfy the demands of nature; and no ſooner does

he appear than we retire. So uninterfering are we, that when he is at home we are abroad; when he is abroad we are then at home. Yet how ſtrange! that a being ſo harmleſs and unobtruſive in its nature, ſhould be ſo eagerly attacked and harraſſed from its quiet: we only aſk to be left at eaſe, to remain unobſerved as we are unobſerving, and even this privilege is refuſed us. We muſt be dragged from our retreat, and expoſed to every ſpecies of outrage. But thus it is with human nature, that thoſe things which moſt retire from obſervation, are moſt ſought after and deſired. The diamond which is obtained with exceſſive difficulty is held in the higheſt eſtimation, and hewn from the mine in the bowels of the earth to glitter in the diadem. The pearl is dragged up from the bottom of the ſea that laves the coaſt of Coromandel:—hid beneath the rolling waves, and buried within the tenacious

ſhell of a fiſh, the fearleſs diver deſcends to its bed at the hazard of his life, and tearing it thence, bears away his prize to the ſhore.

Thoſe who delight in our torments, ſtate the ſuperlative advantages which we enjoy whoſe legs are ſo fleet, and whoſe arts of preſervation are ſo numerous; and, though we cannot openly defend ourſelves by force, that our craft ſupplies the place of arms. Now, if our caſe be impartially taken into conſideration, it will appear that we are one of the leaſt ſecure of all thoſe animals which are purſued either for pleaſure or upon the ſcore of neceſſity. If the more ferocious beaſt be rouzed from its lair, after it has fled until it can fly no farther, it turns in its own defence, and employs its fangs and talons againſt its purſuers: the lion, in the deſart of Africa, ſtruggles againſt the Mooriſh huntſman; and the tiger, in the luxuriant plains of

India, faces about againſt its princely deſtroyer, and, in deſpair, attacks the elephant upon which he is mounted: the wild-boar and the wolf die not unrevenged, and when they are overtaken in the chace, many a dog falls a victim to their expiring rage: the ſtag ſtands at bay; the wily fox is purſued to its earth: the otter grapples, with the ſtrongeſt hound, amid the turbid ſtreams, and dies in defence of his native haunts: the hare ſurely is, after all, the moſt defenceleſs, and has only its ſpeed and ſagacity to preſerve it, qualifications which, when they are balanced againſt the ſtrength and ſagacity of the hound, will not appear to be of that importance which we may at firſt imagine. The hare ſtarts away, and is out of ſight almoſt immediately. But there exiſts a breed of dogs (the greyhound) that can overtake it in its ſwifteſt moments; and the patient beagle follows it with invincible aſſiduity, threading its mazy dou-

THE HARE.

BOOK THE SECOND:

Poor is the triumph o'er the timid hare.

THOMSON.

bles over lawn and through thicket, until he wearies it out: its ſagacity is vaunted; thoſe, however, who have beheld the chace, know that the hound is as ſagacious in following as the other is in eſcaping. Where, then, are the pre-eminent advantages which the hare enjoys?

CHAP. XV.

Then down the lawns I ran—
Through paths and turnings often trod by day,
Till, guided by mine ear, I found the place.
MILTON.

BENDING my courſe to the lowlands, I ſtrolled through the plains which had ſo lately been a part of the theatre of the ravages I had beheld. The print of the hoofs of horſes and the feet of dogs were viſible upon the moiſt earth, and the fences were here and there deſtroyed and torn up by the deſpoilers: gates were thrown wide, and banks broken down: confuſion and diſorder were introduced to mar the induſtry of the farmer, who would have cauſe "to rue the hunting of that day" when he ſhould ſurvey his clover trodden down juſt as it was ſpringing up, and his hedges broken; and when he ſhould reflect that

the diligence of a week could hardly atone for the idleneſs of an hour. Following the courſe of the brook which flowed in the bottom, and which I obſerved had in ſeveral places been croſſed, I arrived at a gate leading into a ſtubble; through which I had no ſooner crept, than I heard at a little diſtance ſomething gently moving acroſs the path-way: I immediately took alarm, but flight was unneceſſary; and how ſhall I deſcribe my emotions when the miſerable object whoſe ſufferings I had lamented, and whoſe fate I had prematurely deplored, appeared before me. I had mourned its death, but it was ſtill alive, although it had been driven to the very brink of deſpair and deſtruction: its fur was all dabbled in blud, and rough with the night dew and the water of the ſtream. It ſeemed like a mournful ghoſt riſing before my aſtoniſhed ſight: part of its ſhoulder had been lacerated, and it limped heavily along.

I approached to condole with it, and offer all the assistance that lay within the compass of my limited powers. It informed me that it had that morning experienced a most miraculous escape from the hounds: for that at starting it was seized by one of the pack, whose teeth had severely torn it upon its shoulder: laboring under such a disadvantage in the outset, that it was then driven about until all its strength and spirit failed; that at length, just as it was upon the point of resigning itself to its merciless pursuers, by an effort it plunged into the brook as a last resource; then swimming to the middle of it, there lay concealed among some rushes in a hole of the stream, with only its mouth and nostrils just sufficiently above the water to prevent it from being suffocated: that after some time spent in fruitless research, the sportsmen had retired, declaring at their departure that they would return to the spot upon some future day.

The hare bore its calamity with the greateſt reſignation, and added a remark, which immediately excited my curioſity and aſtoniſhment—to this ſtream, it obſerved, that it had owed the greateſt misfortune of its life; but that it had alſo been indebted to it for the preſervation of that life, and that the late benefit had made ſome amends for the former injury: during the floods of winter this ſtream had ſwept away its helpleſs infant charge, and they had all periſhed in the torrent, but the mother had at length been recompenſed, by its affording her an aſylum from the fury of her murderers.

During the whole of the narration I had ſurveyed the ſtranger with the deepeſt attention, and, though disfigured with mire, and deformed by a wound, I recognized my mother! Of my feelings upon this occaſion I ſhall ſay nothing: there are thoſe among mankind who laugh at feel-

ings, and the reſt need not be wrought up into ſympathy by a long diſcuſſion; their breaſts will do me juſtice, and to their imagination I ſubmit the ſenſations I experienced when we became known to each other. I had bewailed her misfortune as a ſtranger, but I was ſpared the agony of knowing that my own parent was the unfortunate ſufferer, at the time when I beheld the perſecution from a diſtant height.

She was eager to know how I had been preſerved unprotected as I was at ſo tender an age. I related to her the hiſtory of my life ſince we parted, and in return ſhe informed me of her own. Upon the fatal night that ſeparated us, ſhe had in vain attempted to ſave her offspring, but it was with difficulty that ſhe could preſerve her own life: ſince the loſs of us, ſhe remained in a ſolitary abode, not having experienced any ſubſequent ſerious afflictions, for her age and experience gave her advanta-

ges which I had not poſſeſſed. Her troubles, however, had returned with autumn, ſince ſhe had been ſeverely courſed a few days before, and with the utmoſt difficulty eſcaped the jaws of the greyhounds, by reaching the coppice from which ſhe had this morning been driven by the pack: ſhe thought it unſafe to remain any longer in the open fields, but there was danger even in that retreat which ſeemed moſt ſecure from harm. How happy was I to be able to make ſome return for that care which had protected me in my helpleſs days! I haſted to conduct her to a ſpot which had hitherto been unmoleſted by the clang of the whip, or the ſhout of the huntſman, where ſhe might repoſe until her wounds were healed and her ſpirits renewed: I placed her in my form, and conſtructed another at her ſide, that I might watch over her with unremitting aſſiduity, and omit nothing of comfort which it was in my power to beſtow.

Here was another leſſon, bitter but uſeful. The diſcontent which I had ſo long harboured within my boſom took flight at this mournful example of perſecution; and I learned alſo, from the compariſon of our fates, to deem myſelf moſt happy, in that, although I had undergone much ſuffering, I had eſcaped ſuch exquiſite miſery. From the firmneſs with which my mother ſupported her afflictions, I was taught the value of reſignation. The mind that poſſeſſes this, can feel a calm amid the jarring of conflicting elements, a ſunſhine within when the ſtorm rages without; it is attuned to harmony, not to be diſturbed by petty accidents, and can vibrate ſweet muſic, like the harp of Æolus, even in the chilling gale.

CHAP. XVI.

Now goes the nightly thief prowling abroad
For plunder.

COWPER.

FROM day to day I enjoyed the ſatisfaction of beholding my parent recover beneath my foſtering care. At morn and night I collected provender for her, and brought it in my mouth until ſhe was able once more to forage for herſelf; and now that ſhe had acquired ſtrength to go forth by my ſide, I led her to the neareſt paſtures, and ſhewed her where, with the leaſt trouble, ſhe might ſeek her own food. Thus the exertions of my duty were crowned with all the ſucceſs that I could deſire, and the pleaſure of becoming thus ſerviceable, repayed me for every toil, and made me forget every danger.

One evening we ſeparated to our reſpec-

tive paſtures: the ſun was declining upon the hills, and ſhot his ſlanting rays towards the vales, which were beginning to be wrapped in a breadth of ſhade: the moorhen ſported among the oziers of the lake, and the rook returned ſlow ſailing to his airy neſt: I was light of heart, and ſported gaily onward to ſeek freſh paſtures and explore the vale: night ſoon overtook me, delightful as that deſcribed by the bard.

"Night is calm and fair; blue, ſtarry, ſettled is night. The winds, with the clouds, are gone. They ſink behind the hill. The moon is upon the mountain. Trees gliſter: ſtreams ſhine on the rock. Bright rolls the ſettled lake; bright the ſtream of the vale. The breezes drive the blue miſt ſlowly over the narrow vale. It riſes on the hill, and joins its head to heaven.—Night is ſettled, calm, blue, ſtarry, bright with the moon*."

* Ossian.

Tranſported with delight, I wandered long among the meadows, indulging my curioſity, and gratifying my palate amid ſcenery of ſuch reſplendent beauty, until I began to think it high time to retrace my ſteps: but as I was loitering in a ſtubble, through the gleam I faintly diſcovered ſome perſons at a diſtance, who appeared to be coming towards me, but ſo ſilently did they advance that I hardly heard their tread. I turned to fly from them, for my ſuſpicions were awakened as to the virtue of their deſigns; but I ſaw another alſo approaching, from the quarter by which I intended to have retreated, and he was gently leading a horſe. Thus cloſed in I remained in my ſituation, and ſqueezed myſelf into a furrow, where I truſted that I ſhould remain unnoticed, and ſhould have an opportunity of ſlipping away as ſoon as they had gone by. I was at a loſs to account for theſe ſilent proceedings

which disturbed me: I distinguished the footsteps of the horse crossing the field several times, from hedge to hedge; and now I could hear low whispers: presently a covey rushed by me through the stubbles, and I felt a net completely thrown over me.

At the idea of capture and confinement I started away; yet alas! it was but lost labour; I did but entangle myself the more in my circling prison, and I rolled over and over upon the ground, unable either to extricate myself or to make any use of my limbs, around which the meshes confusedly twined. My case was hopeless, and I saw with the utmost horror the men run up to releave me from my present calamity only to plunge me into a greater. In low tones they expressed their satisfaction as to the booty they had gained: one of them quickly brought a bag into which were thrown the unfortunate covey, who, to add to the comfort of my situation,

were, without the leaſt compunction, ſtrangled one by one in my ſight.

Now, indeed, I gave myſelf up for loſt: this ſpecimen of the mercileſs hands into which I had fallen, deprived me of any ground for the leaſt ray of expectation; and every limb trembled when they proceeded to take me out of the net.

After ſome difficulty and much ſtruggling on my part, who dreaded the touch of a hand almoſt as much as I ſhould the ſting of a viper, I was firmly ſecured.

Now, while one of the party held me, a deliberation enſued, the ſubject of which was, whether it would be beſt to kill me. No unfortunate priſoner at the mock trial of a maſacre, ever awaited the deciſion of his ſanguinary judges with more impatience than I expected my ſentence. One of them ſaid, that in all probability they ſhould not take another hare that night, and as he had partly promiſed to procure

one, that I had therefore better be killed: another urged that he had been offered ſomething conſiderable for the firſt that he could take alive; and that it was a great chance if another could be caught ſo well preſerved as in the preſent inſtance. The advice of the latter prevailed, and it was reſolved, at leaſt for a while, to ſuffer me to remain with life; accordingly I was thruſt by myſelf into a bag, which being tyed at the mouth, and fixed upon the back of the horſe, the robbers decamped with their prize.

CHAP. XVII.

Are you a man?

SHAKESPEAR.

AFTER paſſing through many gates and gaps, I ſoon found, by the ſound of the earth, that we had gained the high road. We had not proceeded far before we were joined by another party; and I diſcovered that theſe were friends of my conductors, and of the ſame profeſſion, from a converſation which enſued, in which the boiſterous oath and the rude jeſt were abundantly given and retorted. Theſe ſaid, that after having ſnared five hares, they were diſturbed by the game-keepers; and, having been cloſely purſued, had very narrowly eſcaped from being taken. However, as they had got off with ſuch ſucceſs, they were determined to

carouze at the houſe upon the heath. In this all the others very readily concurring, we preſently halted; the horſe was tied up to ſome pales; and the whole company retired into the houſe, as I imagine, for a door was opened and cloſed upon them, and I heard their vociferous mirth from within. Having continued ſome time in high debate, the ſubject of which it was impoſſible, at that diſtance, for me to diſtinguiſh, one of them came out again, and returning to that ſide of the horſe where I was ſuſpended, untied the mouth of my ſack; then, to my extreme horror, thruſt in upon me the body of a hare newly killed, and yet warm; and looſing the horſe from the pale, where he had ſtood ſhivering in the chill of the night, ſet out upon his journey.

My ſtate, bad as it had been, was yet comfortable before to what I at preſent experienced. It may be well conceived,

that I was not a little ſhocked and diſguſted to feel the weight of a dead body preſſing upon me from above; but it was with much difficulty that I extricated myſelf from under it; when having no other reſource, I was compelled to ſeat myſelf upon it. We moved onward, at a very uneaſy pace, for ſome time, the driver now and then beſtowing a few blows and curſes upon the patient beaſt who bore us; not ſatisfied, however, with his ſpeed, and apparently eager to haſten home, he mounted, and, notwithſtanding the additional burthen, urged the horſe as faſt as he could move. If, for a few minutes, he relaxed his pace to gain breath, oaths, ſtripes, and kicks were again laviſhed upon him, until his utmoſt efforts were renewed. If I had required a proof of the diſpoſition of my poſſeſſor, and had previouſly gained no other, theſe actions had ſtamped his character at once. "A good man is merciful unto his

beaſt;" but how was it in the preſent caſe? —My dread increaſed; and I anxiouſly deſired once more to behold the light of day; whether I was then doomed to regain my liberty, or to loſe my life.

What wretch, half ſtifled and confined as I was, under ſuch aggravating circumſtances, would not wiſh for emancipation, even though he ſhould be in danger of death by the exchange?—The tortures practiſed by ſome tyrants, as the hiſtory of mankind relates, were ſcarcely worſe; they tied a living and a dead body together, until, by a lingering proceſs, the living became as the body to which it was attached. Such, for a time, was my wretched ſtate, and how could I know but that death might overtake me before I ſhould be releaſed?

We ſtopped again: I could not aſcertain whether the ſun was high; but conjectured, that it muſt be morning by the faint

light that was juſt diſcernable through the interſtices of my priſon. The man diſmounted: I was taken from off the horſe, and conveyed into a houſe where the ſacks were thrown promiſcuouſly into a corner. Now, indeed, I had, for the firſt time, an opportunity of removing to ſome diſtance from the object of my annoyance, and immediately crept away as far as I could. A female voice from above enquired of my poſſeſſor where he had ſtaid ſo long, and why he had remained out all night? To theſe queſtions he ſcarcely vouchſafed to render any anſwer, or thoſe that he gave were ſhort and churliſh; but preſently he ſaid, "I am going out for a little while, and, in the mean time, I inſiſt upon it that you will not touch thoſe ſacks which I have placed in the corner by the window; if, upon my return, I find that you have meddled with them, I ſhall be very angry."

"What ſacks?" returned the ſame voice

from above, "and what is in them that I may not touch them?" but the words were loſt; for, having ſtated his commands, he was out of hearing.

He had not been long abſent before another perſon lifted the latch and tripped ſlipſhod over the threſhold; in a few minutes, ſome one coming to the corner in which the bags lay, began to examine their contents; firſt the other, in which were the birds, was opened; an expreſſion of delighted ſurpriſe followed: the mouth of that in which I lay was next looſened; my heart palpitated with the hopes of eſcape; but I lay perfectly ſtill, until I diſcovered the opening; then forth I ruſhed to the great aſtoniſhment of a gaping child, who, in vain attempted to ſtop my career: a back door ſtood open, and I fled out of the houſe, entering upon a ſlip of garden, where I concealed myſelf in a bed of cabbages. The child purſued me with many

outcries, calling to its mother to aſſiſt in catching me. They both hurried into the garden, the one crying, and the other expreſſing her dread of the effects of her huſband's anger in caſe I ſhould have completed my eſcape. However, I was ſoon diſcovered to their great ſatisfaction; and, in a ſcrambling manner, driven about from one bed to another, they attempting to catch me; and I not only attempting to elude their hands, but to find out ſome hole in the fence through which I might eſcape; but I could diſcern none through which it would be poſſible for me to draw my whole body: at laſt, I drove with all my might againſt the wideſt aperture which I could obſerve, hoping that my force and weight would ſufficiently enlarge it to admit me through. In this I was completely diſappointed; unable either to paſs through or to return, I ſtuck faſt among the briars and was taken. The mother then gently

reproving the curioſity of the child, wrapped me in her apron, and they both returned with me into the houſe. Unfortunately, while they were entering at one door, the father alſo entered again at the other. His countenance naturally harſh, now kindled into fury; no ſooner did he ſee me in her hands, than ſeizing me he thruſt me into my old confinement, and without hearing the defence of the woman, beat her moſt unmercifully, until ſcreaming ſhe fled out of the houſe; when removing me and the reſt of his plunder, he depoſited us in ſome other room, and turned the lock upon us.

Alas! thought I, my opinion was but too well founded: here is, at any rate a conſiſtency of character; cruel as he was to his horſe, he is as cruel in other inſtances alſo; and the ſame diſpoſition that prompts a man to behave ſavagely towards his beaſt, will render him, whenever opportunity offers, a tyrant in his own family.

CHAP. XVIII.

——Mock'd with death, and lengthen'd out
To deathleſs pain.

MILTON.

SHUT up within a damp and noiſome place, I paſſed ſeveral hours without food, and almoſt without air. In this deplorable condition, torn as I was a ſecond time from my parent, and excluded from the comforts, and even neceſſaries of exiſtence, I could not much longer have continued to ſupport a life now no more rendered deſirable: but the calls of hunger would have been more urgent and imperious if my mind had been leſs oppreſſed with melancholy reflections, and the fatigue of my exertions demanded repoſe, and brought on a ſlumber. At length the door was opened; I felt myſelf lifted from the ground and borne away.

After ſome time we came within hearing of the hum of men, and ſeemed to be entering ſome populous place: for I could diſcern artificial lights through the texture of my covering; whereas, before I was completely enveloped in darkneſs, and the noiſes of men and horſes as we traverſed ſeveral ſtreets, ſtruck terror into me; the crack of the whip, and the rattling of wheels diſtreſſed me beyond meaſure: but the perſon at whoſe back I was ſuſpended, entered a houſe, and enquired if the maſter were at home. Here, I fancy, he intended to have diſpoſed of me according to the information that he had given his companions, when my life was the queſtion of debate; but here his deſign was fruſtrated; for he was anſwered in the negative, that he had quitted Glouceſter that morning, and that he was not expected to return within leſs than a month: upon this diſagreeable intelligence he retired, muttering

ſomething between his teeth, and apparently little ſatisfied with his diſappointment. Soon, however, he came to a place where he ſold the dead part of his charge, and made a bargain with regard to myſelf: here I again ſaw the light, not the light of nature and freedom, but was produced by the poacher in a ſmall low room, where the air was extremely noxious, and where I was examined by the glimmering of a candle, whoſe dazzling rays I could hardly bear. At the concluſion of a conference in which my ſeller extolled and my purchaſer vilified me, although afterwards neither ſeemed particularly diſpleaſed with the agreement; I became the property of another; and being releaſed from the horrid bag, was conveyed into a new priſon. Of my ſituation, I could not immediately form any diſtinct idea, for it was dark when I was introduced to it, and, in truth, I felt but little

inclined to take much trouble in exploring it, although it required no great powers of penetration to diſcover that my range was not very extenſive: however, finding out a warm corner where hay had been placed to form a bed for me, there I lay cloſe, and exceſs of wearineſs ſoon brought on a deep ſleep.

When I awoke, the beams of the morning ſtruck upon my eye-lids, and gave me an opportunity of diſcovering where I was placed, and what was the conſtruction of my new habitation: but how differently did they appear! not as they were wont; breaking through the twinkling leavès and beſpangling every blade of graſs; but they ſhot over the roof of a houſe upon which appeared chimnies ſtreaming ſoon after with ſmoke; no chorus of birds was to be heard caroling to the riſing ſun, no notes ſave thoſe of a ſolitary black-bird, who, confined as well as myſelf, from a wicker

cage ſuſpended to the door-poſt of a ſtable, made the walls re-echo to his mournful ſtrains. I was no longer free to chuſe my food from the variety which nature grants, but in this reſpect I preſently diſcovered that I was not in any abſolute want: this might be deemed living in luxury when compared with the manner in which I had paſſed the day before. I was incloſed within a ſpacious box wired in front, and therefore much expoſed, but having a part at each end entirely covered in, where I could retire, whenever I wiſhed to eſcape obſervation: I was abundantly ſupplied with vegetables, and whatever was neceſſary for me except my liberty; and that I panted for and prized above all the comforts that men could poſſibly beſtow.

The place aſſigned to me was in a yard which belonged to an inn, and my box was fixed againſt the wall, where ſeveral contrivances of the ſame deſcription above

and below me were allotted to rabbits; and here I ſuffered much from the impertinent curioſity of every idle gazer, for although I retreated to the moſt obſcure part of my hutch, it was in the power of any one by ſtriking upon it forcibly with a ſtick to teaze me from my hiding-place and drive me from one end to the other; then frequently the indolent oſtlers and poſt-boys, when they were not engaged in the noble purſuit of gaming, amuſed themſelves at my expence; and one in particular enjoying my diſtreſs, uſed to be highly delighted with puffing a cloud of ſmoke at me from a ſhort pipe which he held between his teeth. Here, alſo, was an entire inverſion of all my habits; I could ſcarcely ever ſleep, during the day, for the perpetual hurry of paſſing and re-paſſing, and the noiſes of bells, which were ever tinkling in my ears. But I collected, from a converſation that occurred between ſome of

my ſpectators, that I was only reſerved to be ſlaughtered at a convenient ſeaſon, being neceſſary to add to the delicacies of a ſumptuous entertainment, which was to be given in a few days.—Oh! how I hailed the approach of that hour which was to releaſe me from my miſery.

One afternoon two young men drove a ſmall chaiſe moſt furiouſly into the yard; the flanks of the horſe ſmoked, and were all dripping from the violence of his exertions. I immediately attracted their notice, and in one of them recollected the features of the youth from whoſe murderous hands I had been reſcued by the interpoſition of my benefactor; but the other was not he: after remaining ſome time within the houſe, they came out half intoxicated, for their behaviour was then wild and extravagant. They had no ſooner re-aſcended their carriage, than one of them accidentally caſting his eyes towards me exclaimed,

that they had forgot to aſk about the hare. The landlord was ſent for, and they were not long in agreeing about the purchaſe of me: I was, therefore, put into a wicker cage, with a little ſtraw, which being tied on at the back of the chaiſe, we were whirled away.

They drove on with ſo much violence, that I was apprehenſive for the lives of many perſons upon the road; and did not, without juſt grounds, entertain ſtrong ſuſpicions of the whole party. Our courſe was not exactly ſo rectilinear as it ought to have been, and we were more than once in danger of being daſhed in pieces againſt other vehicles which we met with in the way. What was I to conjecture as to my future deſtination? I judged that it was for no humane purpoſe that I was carried off, and in this I was not deceived. They talked in a boiſterous manner, and ſo loudly, that notwithſtanding the rattling

of the carriage, ſome parts of the converſation I made out very diſtinctly: It turned upon hunting, they ſpoke with rapture of ſome late chaſe in which they had taken a part, and I ſoon became a topic, when, unfortunately, I could diſtinguiſh no more. We turned into a lane which conducted to a ſmall village, and ſtopped before a farm-houſe. Several dogs were loitering about the road, and ſome ſleeping upon the graſs-plat before the door. Theſe gave immediate intelligence of our approach by barking, and ſome had the audacity to raiſe themſelves upon their hinder legs, and ſmell at my cage, until they were admoniſhed to retire by the whip: but when the young man called aloud to the perſons within the houſe, a whole pack from a kennel, in an adjoining meadow, returned ſuch a lengthened howl, intermixed with barking, as made my blood run cold. The farmer quickly came forth with many

hearty ſalutations; they aſked him if he would do them the favor to bring his dogs over the next morning, for they had a hare which they would turn out to begin with, and that afterwards they would engage to ſhew him abundance of ſport: he promiſed to comply with their requeſt, and preſſed them to alight; but, upon their refuſal, inſiſted, at leaſt, that they ſhould drink with him before their departure. Liquor was immediately produced, and the concluſion of the farmer's hoſpitality was, that the intoxication which had begun before, was now completely effected.

They parted with aſſurances of meeting early on the next day. Away we flew, once more, with redoubled violence; and, if the wiſdom of the animal who was driven had not, in ſeveral inſtances, been ſuperior to its driver, we muſt inevitably have been overthrown. It was dark before we arrived at the place of our deſtina-

tion, of which I could diſtinguiſh nothing clearly, only I heard two heavy gates opened at our approach. Having proceeded through theſe, they alighted, and I was delivered into the hands of a ſervant, with ſtrict charge from my old tormentor as to my care until the morrow. They alſo told him that the hounds would then caſt off near the houſe, when they intended to turn me out, and ordered that their horſes ſhould be ready at an early hour in the morning.

CHAP. XIX.

Ill-fated youth, then whither wilt thou fly?
No friend, no ſhelter, now is nigh;
And onward rolls the ſtorm.

BEATTIE.

THE proſpect grew worſe and worſe. The laſt evil that threatened me had paſſed away; but another was in ſtore by far more tremendous than the former. Inſtantaneous death, that at which thouſands of beings would have trembled as a hard condition, but which I had ſo vehemently deſired, ſince I muſt die by the hands of men, was denied me. This conſolation, ſuch an one, as it was, was removed, and ſupplanted by an evil of much greater magnitude. Still I found comfort in the faint hope, although the ſtar to which I turned was certainly obſcure, that I might eſcape;

and, whereas, in the former inſtance, this was entirely out of the queſtion; in the preſent caſe, an opportunity was offered which might be improved to advantage.

Day-light came with all its horrors: I heard the noiſy pack clamoring for ſome victim; and I was taken from a hay-loft in which I had been depoſited, and where I had paſſed all the night. Then being privately conveyed to the field where it was intended I ſhould commence my carreer, the dogs, with all their followers, ſoon after arrived at the ſame ſpot: theſe, as well as the horſes and men, waited, with the utmoſt impatience, for the moment when I ſhould be ſet at liberty. There was no delay: in an inſtant I felt myſelf upon the ground, and ſaw a multitude of mouths extended in purſuit of me; however, I had a chance of being able to elude them, and I was determined to ſell my life as dearly as I could; but finding myſelf in a country

with which I was unacquainted, I knew that I ſhould meet with many diſadvantages. I was ignorant of the meuſes in theſe hedges; I underſtood not the windings of the coppices, but fled ſtraight forward to the bottom of the field, where was a gate through which I ſlipped; and was glad to find, that by the time I reached this, my enemies, who had ſet out almoſt cloſe at my heels, had not gone above half the diſtance. Through many more fields I fled with my utmoſt rapidity, and, for ſome time, along a road; at firſt only attempting to evade, by ſwiftneſs, without putting into practice much of that cunning for which we are ſo renowned. And now, having gained a broomy thicket upon an eminence, I conſidered which way it would be beſt to bend my courſe, and ſtopped to take breath.

The horn poured its diſmal tones diſtinctly upon my ear; the ſhouting drew

nearer and nearer, and the whole body ſoon came in ſight. I muſt not remain here: I perceived that they would not be long before they overtook me; and I was aſtoniſhed at the ſagacity of the hound in ſcenting my footſteps.

The dryneſs of the road checked their ardor for awhile, and here they came to a fault, the huntſmen diſmounting, and attempting to trace the print of my feet in the duſt. I obſerved them reſtrain the babblers of the pack, and attend to thoſe upon whoſe intelligence they could more ſecurely rely; until a laborer in an adjacent field, who had watched my motions, called out to them, and pointed to the route which I had taken; then the purſuit was renewed. If the dogs came to a ſpot where I had doubled, they ſpread themſelves abroad to catch the ſcent, and unravel the clue: and where I had proceeded in a ſtraight line, they followed each be-

hind the other with great regularity. It was neceſſary to reſume my flight: not far off I beheld a wood that waved in the wind, and ſeemed to invite me. I puſhed forward towards it; but firſt, I ran in many a wily maze round and round the thicket, and then, with intention of confuſing the ſcent, through a whole flock of ſheep, who, hearing my purſuers, with a ſhew of oppoſition, were aſſembling together; then racing in ſhort circles, and returning, as it were, to the charge, faced about, with a feigned boldneſs, towards that quarter whence the alarm had proceeded.

I was much deceived in my calculation of the diſtance of the wood to which I directed my courſe; it was, in reality, much farther off than I had imagined. I had a hollow of ſome extent to croſs; and, not having properly conſidered this—for, as in my hurry. I caſt my eyes over it, the wood appeared much nearer than I after-

wards found it to be; my limbs began to relax, I felt a languor coming over me, and a ſhortneſs of breath, which demanded immediate reſt. I found the neceſſity of pauſing for relief; but the delay of a moment was dangerous: the tumult raged at no great diſtance behind me, and I could not think of meeting here with any repoſe, unleſs it were that of death. Before, my eyes was the place of my refuge; but I felt as though I could not gain it. How hard a caſe! Thus the veſſel, tempeſt-toſſed, beholds the harbour which ſhe in vain attempts to enter, compelled to abide the fury of the ſtorm.

CHAP. XX.

O ye woods!
To your deepeſt receſſes I fly.
SHENSTONE.

HAVING gained a fallow that bordered upon the wood, I found it, for the preſent, abſolutely impoſſible to advance any farther: my heaving lungs panted quick, and my heart beat violently, as if it would ſtart from my ſide at each agitated throb. No longer lightly bounding along; my limbs loſt their vigour ſo rapidly, that if my enemy had been cloſer behind me, I muſt inevitably have periſhed: already I had reſigned myſelf to my fate, and lay cloſe between ſome large clods of a friendly hue. Nearer and nearer the din approached, and I ſaw the whole train arrive heated and panting.

They were now ſo cloſe to me, that a laſt effort, if any effort were ever to be made, was immediately neceſſary. Being ſomewhat refreſhed, by the few minutes during which I had reſted, I aroſe. The uproar and agitation that was cauſed, by the ſight of me, is not to be deſcribed: ſtill I was too nimble for the whole pack, who ſtrained their feeble notes and wearied limbs after me in vain. I had juſt attained the gaol that my heart longed for, and was about to ſlip through a gate, when a horſeman, the youth whoſe malice had been exerted againſt me in my younger days, outſtripping the reſt, rode after me at full ſpeed, intending to prevent me from entering this place of refuge. He ſhouted after me, and cracked his whip; but I kept right onward, and he came up with me juſt as I was creeping under the gate. He ſpurred his hard-breathing horſe with the greateſt impetuoſity, that he

might leap over it, and turn me back again; but the animal failing in his attempt, ſtruck his fore-legs againſt the higheſt bar, he and his rider coming headlong to the ground; and there lying entangled, rolling over one another. Luckily, I eſcaped unhurt; and the confuſion occaſioned by this event, was much in my favor: nor, can I deſcribe my joy when I diſcovered, among the buſhes, innumerable cavities here and there ſcattered among the ſandy ſoil, the abode of rabbits. I fled through the midſt of them. What a delightful moment of relief when I perceived that what I had anticipated had taken place! The dogs immediately took different courſes, and thoſe that continued to purſue me, did not preſs on with ſo much ardor.

However I was not yet to elude my followers. It is wonderful how they traced me through thickets and briars; and now, that they had ſpread themſelves

through the wood, I was by no means out of jeopardy. Accident threw me ſeveral times in their way: I had, more than once, been compelled to ſtart back at the corner of a buſh upon ſeeing a dog before me; and my peril was ſo great, that I reſolved, at a favorable moment, to try once more the open plain. I had gained breath by the delay, and felt my confidence revive.

On one ſide the thicket opened to a graſſy meadow, where cattle were repoſing, patiently chewing the cud, or calmly attentive to the diſtant clamor. I ſtole away by the hedge-ſide, and then through ſeveral fields, which bore marks of the higheſt cultivation and care, a green ſward running through the midſt of each. I flattered myſelf that my adverſaries would give up the purſuit; but my ears preſently convinced me of the contrary: down a thiſtly bank I ruſhed into a lane, where, through the duſt and gravel, I continued

my flight: a barn ſtood at hand; I was about to paſs it; one door ſtood half open, and ſome perſons within were talking loudly, whilſt others, as I afterwards ſaw, were wielding the flail.

From beneath the oppoſite hedge, a dog who was lying upon a heap of clothes, darted forward, and forced me (for where could I run for ſafety?) into the barn. No ſooner had I entered, than ſeveral men appeared to reſcue me from the dog, who had caught me by one of the hinder legs, and was proceeding to deſtroy me. Without much reſiſtance, I was taken, and one, who ſeemed far ſuperior to the reſt, deſired that I might be immediately carried into the houſe, and given into the hands of his daughter, with charge to take great care of me until he returned.

I was ſo faint and weary, that I found it uſeleſs to ſtruggle againſt the graſp of a ruſtic, eſpecially as I was about to be deli-

vered at any rate from my impending danger. It ſignified little what was about to betide me, nothing could be worſe than what I had ſo lately experienced. We paſſed over a high ſtile, into a ſmall park, and ſoon came within ſight of the houſe, buried amid lofty elms, where a colony of rooks had fixed their reſidence, and made the air reſound with their perpetual cawings. Having arrived ot the door, the female, into whoſe care I was to be committed, was enquired for, and appeared with an eye that beamed with pity for my ſufferings. After the delivery of the meſſage, and two or three queſtions upon the ſubject of my being caught, the door of a ſmall room was opened, and the man was deſired to ſet me at liberty: he did ſo, and I crawled into a corner, ſeverely pained in that part where the dog had ſeized me. In haſte ſhe ran to call her brothers, who appeared the children of compaſſion, ſur-

veying me with the moſt benignant looks of tenderneſs. The eldeſt of three was that benevolent youth who had before ſaved me from his deſtructive companion, and who ſtill bore about him the marks of that painful hour; for his arm was ſuſpended in a ſling, and over his features an intereſting paleneſs was ſpread.

They were all inſtantly ſolicitous to give me relief; ſome ran and brought me food, while others held me until the ſiſter had applied a balm to my wound. What a luxury to be tenderly treated when in pain! but how much more ſo when we have juſt experienced barbarity!

Aſk the traveller who has croſſed, with difficulty, ſome ſavage region, where the natives have robbed him—have ſought to enſlave or murder him? he will tell thee with what heartfelt ſatisfaction he has arrived upon the borders of ſome more

hoſpitable land, where the tenderneſs of its in habitants made amends for his form-ill-treatment; where he was warmed, clothed, and refreſhed, and ſent upon his way rejoicing.

CHAP. XXI.

I knew at leaſt one hare that had a friend.
COWPER.

THEY had ſcarcely made an end of their humance efforts, and withdrawn from the room, when they came in again, and with them their father, the perſon to whom I owed my deliverance in the barn. As he entered, he ſaid, "I would not adviſe you to go over immediately to ſee your couſin, for it is neceſſary that he ſhould be kept quiet: I did not ſee him myſelf, and your preſence may diſturb him. I am extremely ſorry that he ſhould have met with this unfortunate accident; but it may, in the end, prove of the utmoſt ſervice to him, in warning him how he yields, for the future, to ſuch cruel propenſities.—But where is the object of your care?"

"Here, Sir," replied one, "it has crept into this corner; my ſiſter has juſt bound up its leg, and it appears as if it would recover."

Oh, that is right, I am glad of it; we will not ſuffer the poor creature henceforth to want protection. Do you not remember how we admired that action of Xenocrates, who, when a chaſed bird flew into his boſom, reſcued it with much ſatsfaction, ſaying, that he had not betrayed a ſuppliant?"

"But, did not the huntſmen," ſaid my former benefactor, "purſue their prey as far as the barn?"

"No; they gave it up at a conſiderable diſtance, for they had hardly come within hearing; when they withdrew another way, and, I underſtand, ſtarted another hare which conducted them quite a contrary courſe, and which they killed on the other ſide of the hill. It has given me much pleaſure, my dear children, that

none of you diſplay an inclination for this barbarous diverſion: ſo long as you can amuſe yourſelves rationally, you will never have occaſion to recur to it. This is the never-failing reſource of the weak and the idle; and, if habits of cruelty, ſwearing, and intoxication, were characteriſtics of a gentleman, then I would advice you to become ſportſmen."

"Although I do not mean, ſir, to defend the practice," ſaid the youth, "yet I think there is ſomething highly exiliratting in the muſic of the pack and the ſound of the horn."

"You are in the right, my dear; it is inſpirating—it incites; but it is an impulſe of feeling which does not allow us to reaſon; and, if we were once to take into conſideration the connection of theſe ſounds with cruelty, we ſhould no more receive delight from them, than we do from the drum and fife, when connected with the

idea of cities ſacked, and plains laid waſte: judgment certainly rejects this impulſe, which will not endure diſpaſſionate examination. The cry of dogs upon the "health-breathing hill" inſpires us; ſo does the ſound of the trumpet: they both rouze our feelings; we are led away, we care not how, we know not whither: we ſpring over the fence, and ſcour along the plain; we ſeize the ſword, and ruſh to the battle: our feelings are not always right; they demand the aid of reflection to correct them; and, if we would deliberate a little more, we ſhould avoid much ſorrow. I confeſs that I have followed the chaſe: I have felt the ardor of it; but, when I reflected upon it, I was aſhamed, and bluſhed to think upon my conduct: Indeed, as it is now purſued, I hold it unworthy of the liberal mind. Among nations who profeſs to be poliſhed and humane, it ſhould not find a place.

"Among ſavages, hunting is the ſchool

of war. In purſuing the wild beaſt through the trackleſs foreſt, the Indian innures himſelf to toils and dangers; he endures heat and cold, fatigue and hunger, and he exerciſes his courage in cloſe combat with the ferocious animal; he becomes ſkilful in drawing the bow; it nerves his arm to wield the ponderous club; and when he comes into the battle, he is able to encounter the haughtieſt warriers, and to ſuſtain the ſeverities of the tedious march. Thus, of old, the Germans trained their youth to hardihood and valorous exploits, and to this the American tribes owe their ſtrength and ſubſiſtence: here is an adequate reaſon for it; but, among poliſhed nations, what ſhall be ſaid to apologize for a cuſtom which has neither neceſſity, reaſon, or humanity on its ſide. We ſhall ſay, truly, that it is an amuſement!—an amuſement to torture a defenceleſs animal to death!—an amuſement which conſiſts in cruelty! The Roman emperors, whoſe innocent

amuſements were of this deſcription, have been juſtly deteſted by poſterity; and we have been aſtoniſhed, that Domitian ſhould delight in his ſolitary moments, to transfix flies, when he had no other creature upon which he could exercife his humane diſpoſition. Now, in the caſe of the barbarian, hunting, as I before obſerved, is a means of ſubſiſtence to him; but refined nations are ſhut out from this excuſe; they have not to plead, in the ſame manner, the neceſſities of hunger; and, does it not ſeem ſtrange, that civilized man, envious of the ſtate of his ſavage neighbour, and aping it in this reſpect, ſhould be ſo deſirous of returning to the habits of his rudeſt condition? Are they to be envied? Are they to be deſired? He would think it hard if he were compelled to return to them. If exercife be the plea, let a man go to the plough; this occupation is equally healthful, much more innocent, and infinitely more beneficial to ſociety. There are me-

thods enough of exertion, let him employ himſelf in any one that has not in it a mixture of barbarity: but the ſavage has yet another plea which we have not to boaſt—ſelf-defence. If he did not ſometimes take up arms againſt the wolf, the wolf might deſtroy him, 'the beaſt of prey:' 'blood-ſtained deſerves to bleed;' but what has the poor hare done? in what hath it offended, that it ſhould be thus perſecuted, with yells, until it breathes out its laſt ſcream in deſpair? If it be neceſſary to kill it, let death be ſpeedily inflicted upon it; let the thundering gun, levelled at it in its form, lay it low in an inſtant, and let it not be robbed of its life by inches: it is ſufficient ſtretch of power, that the life itſelf is taken away, without adding cruelty to neceſſity. In this reſpect, we might receive a very uſeful leſſon from the hound: no dog that could ſeize its prey by an inſtantaneous ſpring, would employ an hour or two in hunting it down and prolonging

its ſuffering. Into the hands of man are committed the ſagacity of the dog, and the ſtrength of the horſe; but he is accountable for the uſe he makes of them, and ſhould no more abuſe them than he ſhould the advantages of fire and iron, which, are put into his power, and which, although highly beneficial to life when properly managed, are moſt detrimental when their end is perverted.

"When we read ſome time ago the natural hiſtory of the tiger, we thought it a moſt ungenerous animal; becauſe, leaping by night into the fold, it ſatiates its hunger, and is not content; it kills more than it can devour, and in the wantonneſs of ſlaughter plunges its head into the body of the expiring victim, and revels in blood. But how are human beings leſs wanton, when they are unſatisfied with killing for their wants, but muſt alſo ſlaughter for their pleaſure; when they go forth, amid beauty and harmony, their expreſs pur-

poſe being to diſturb and to deſtroy.

" However, my children we may ceaſe to wonder that a harmleſs animal ſhould be thus harraſſed, ſeeing that men have inſtituted ſuch perſecutions againſt their own brethren, as their own annals relate. We may go to the pages of hiſtory for the dreadful truth. It is a melancholy picture of human nature, but I could ſhew you in the perſecutions under Lewis the fourteenth of France, and our own queen Mary a few inſtances in which innocent blood was ſhed. It was this ſame ſpirit that directed the torture of the martyrs; that pointed where the fire would give the moſt exquiſite pain, and where the red-hot pincers ſhould tear the quivering muſcle; that added indignities to cruelties, violated all laws human and divine, depopulated cities, and rendered fertile plains a deſert. But come, we looſe time, let us go to our geography."

They then went out to their ſtudies; and left me to reflect upon the kind treatment I

had experienced: I was doubly happy in exiſting beneath a roof that covered ſuch benevolent beings. I felt no confinement. The humanity of the ſon was only equalled by the humanity of the father; and ſeeing this, I learned whence the youth had derived his merciful temper. What a bleſſing is a virtuous education!—a jewel that cannot be too highly prized: if a parent have permitted vice to increaſe in the mind of his child, he may at his deceaſe leave him in poſſeſſion of apparent riches or honors, but he cannot bequeath happineſs as his portion: gold may attract the reſpect of flatterers; power may procure the fawning of ſycophants; but none of theſe can ſoothe that breaſt if virtue be away, and where ſhe is theſe can be of no avail. An education of this kind is a more valuable inheritance from a parent than coffers, or a kingdom. It is power: it is wealth: ſuch power and ſuch wealth alone the heart of man ought to deſire.

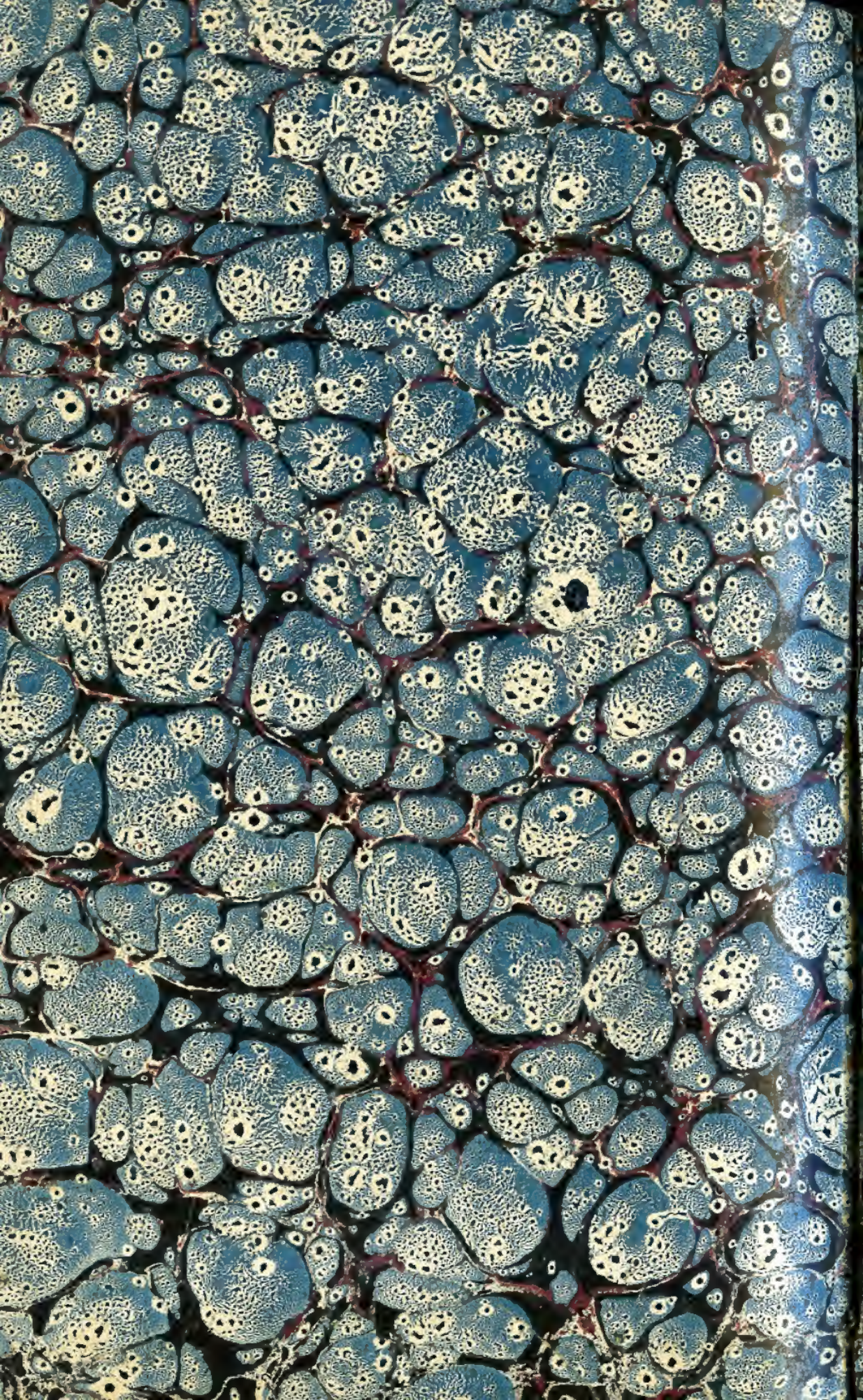
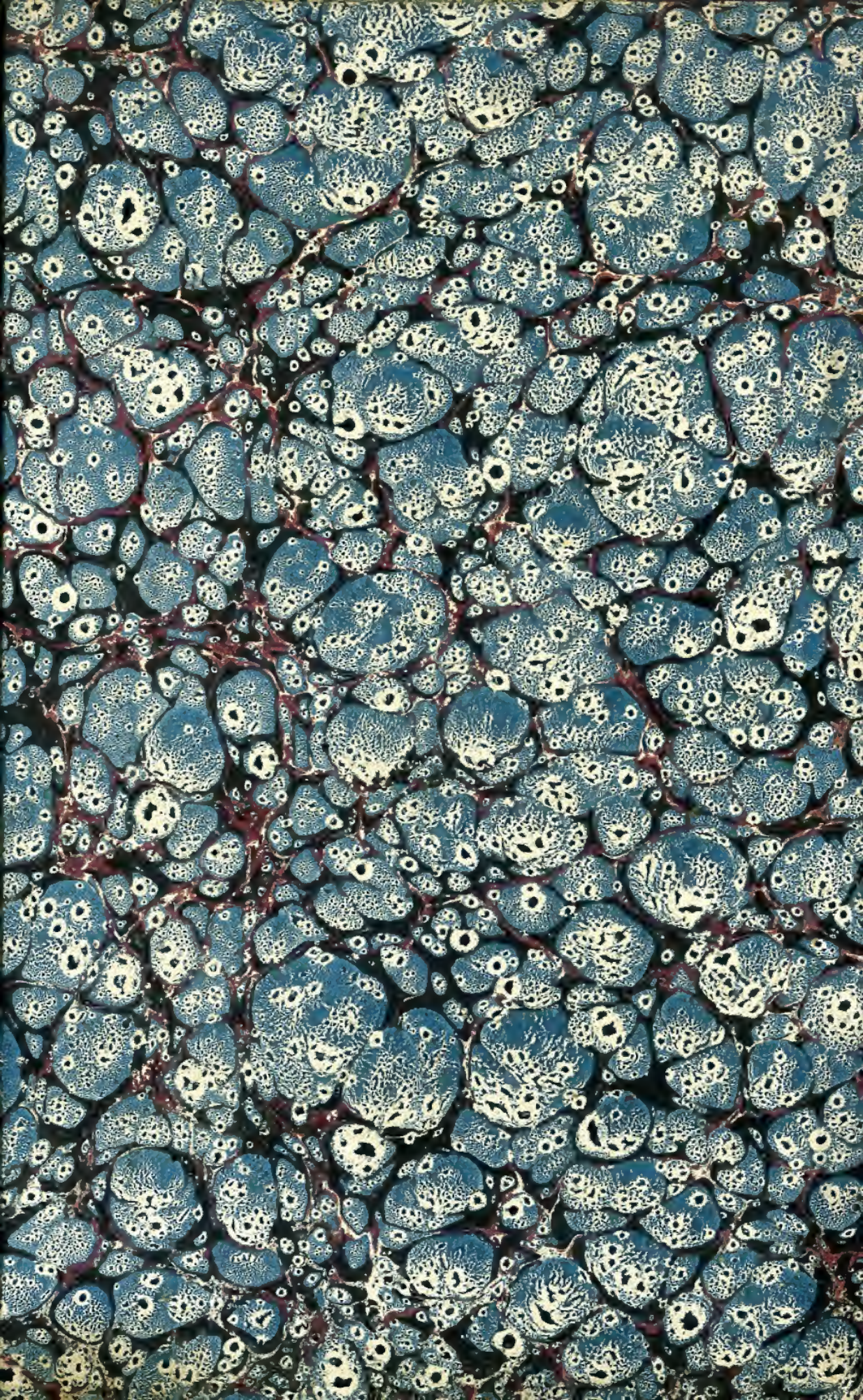
CHAP. XXII.

——— I may look back on every ſorrow paſt,
And meet life's peaceful evening with a ſmile.
BOWLES.

IN this ſituation I remained until the watchful benevolence of my guardians had completely reſtored me to my "found and priſtine health." Then no longer under any reſtraint, I was once more ſet at liberty to enjoy a ſecurity which I had hitherto never known. In the park of my benefactor, protected from all aſſaults, I enjoy all the advantages of liberty without its attendant dangers.

Undiſturbed I take up my reſidence as inclination or the ſeaſon invites. Mine is the ſunny bank of firs, mine the dark ſhrubbery impervious to the noon-tide ray. Here neither the hourly fear of death nor of bondage is before my eyes: here autumn

has no terrors, and winter itſelf is diſarmed of its rigors. No dog nor man preſumes to moleſt my quiet, and I dwell in the midſt of many others of my own ſpecies, who abide beneath the ſhade of the ſame friendly retirement.

From my aſylum I ſend forth theſe leſſons into the world, that inexperienced youth may not confide too obſtinately in their own ſtrength, nor haſtily adopt opinions, which they may be ſoon compelled to retract to their coſt. It has alſo been my deſire to warn them of the folly and madneſs of a cruel practice of which they perhaps never entertained a ſerious idea; and to inform them that there is not wanting one among our race who, like the frog in the fable, addreſſing its wanton deſtroyers, can exclaim, "although it is ſport to you, it is death to us." But that the picture of ſuffering which I have drawn may not be imagined too gloomy, let it be remember-

ed, that in the midſt of calamities which I thought too ſevere to be born, and when I conceived myſelf the moſt oppreſſed of creatures, I found others ſtill more wretched than myſelf: nor let it ever be forgotten, whatever I, or the moſt rigid cenſor may have ſaid, that heaven-born pity ſtill abides upon the earth; that there ſtill exiſts ſuch a quality as mercy among mankind.